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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Between Saipan and Tinian, which island should the U.S. Air Force choose for its alternate airfield in the event that Guam's Andersen Air Force Base is unavailable?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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President Obama offers hugs, tears and the nation's sympathy.

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Officials raise the death toll to at least 37 in the heaviest rainstorm to hit Beijing.

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"The Twilight Saga" will need a bigger garage for its Teen Choice awards.

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No to transition's extension

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» 'Grant improved status instead to stabilize CNMI workforce'
» Worker groups prepare letter to US Labor, DHS, Fitial

With their position now firmed up, worker groups in the CNMI are opposing the extension of the federalization transition period beyond Dec. 31, 2014, and will ask the U.S. government to instead grant improved immigration status to long-term, legal foreign workers.

They describe the granting of improved status as the more humane, more effective way of stabilizing the tourism-based CNMI workforce and economy.

"Extending the transition period will only prolong the suffering and agony of a lot of foreign workers but also result in the continued destabilization of the workforce," Dekada Movement president Bonifacio Sagana told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

RELATED NEWS
➤ CW permit holder finally gets CW visa after several weeks. PAGE 5

Had the federal government and the CNMI govern-

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CHC unready for influx of Medicaid patients

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Many services remain unavailable at public hospital
» No funds to hire additional personnel

The Commonwealth Health Center as it is right now cannot handle the influx of new Medicaid patients who used to go private clinics to seek treatment and other medical services, according to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta.

He cited the hospital's funding shortfall as a major barrier to adding more personnel that will handle the expected increase in patients, now that most private clinics are turning away Medicaid patients.

See CHC on Page 4

Colo. shooting suspect used Internet for arsenal

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DENVER (AP)—In a world where Amazon can track your next book purchase and you must register to buy allergy medicine, James Holmes spent months stockpiling thousands of bullets and head-to-toe ballistic gear without raising any red flags with

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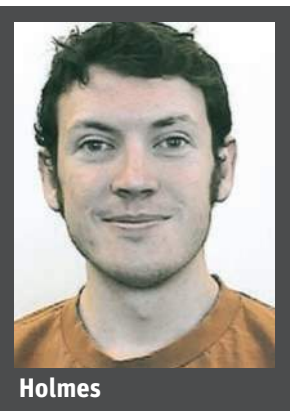

Holmes

SEWERLINE PROJECT HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

GPPC Inc. employees work on a Commonwealth Utilities Corp. sewer line replacement project in Garapan yesterday afternoon. The rehabilitation of lift station S-8/S-2, originally for $448,800, started in August 2011 and was supposed to be completed in February 2012. Workers at the site said change orders and other issues, such as sea level water, has been pushing back the project completion date.

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Local

NMI to Air Force: Use Tinian as divert airfield

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The CNMI government has submitted its formal comment to the U.S. Air Force on a draft environmental impact statement, encouraging the use of Tinian as the preferred site for an alternate airfield in the event that access to Guam's Andersen Air Force Base is limited or denied.

The Air Force, in its draft EIS, identified Saipan as the "preferred Alternative 1" and Tinian as "preferred Alternative 2" for a divert or contingency airfield.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos, as acting chair of the CNMI Military Integration Management Committee, told Air Force Capt. Rebecca Heyse that the CNMI is supportive of the U.S. military and openly endorses a robust military presence in the CNMI.

He said the CNMI looks forward to hosting the Air Force's proposed divert activities within the CNMI. Inos also said the Commonwealth understands the Air Force's environmental analysis and sensitivity to the financial implications and rationale on selecting Saipan as the preferred alternative.

But Inos said the CNMI "encourages the USAF to consider a more strategic and holistic approach, which leverages scarce Department of Defense resources on a joint service—joint international training complex on the island of Tinian."

He said enhancing Tinian West Field supports Air Force's divert activities mission, while also enhancing Tinian's training value.

"Recent training exercises, inclusive of Marine Air Group 12 (MAG 12) exemplifies the interoperability of missions in the region and justifies the need for a comprehensive integrated training venue," Inos said in the submission of MIMC's official comment and the governor's White Paper on the draft EIS.

He said existing civilian infrastructure affords the potential of cost sharing, while the small civilian population does not generate significant compatibility challenges.

"The choice of Tinian for the USAF Divert Activities is a step forward in fulfilling the intent of the long-term lease between the Commonwealth and the United States," he said.

Two-thirds of Tinian leased is leased by the U.S. Department of Defense.

The islands of Saipan and Tinian played major roles during World War II and Tinian in specific had the world's busiest airport during the war. It was the launching pad of the two atomic bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, hastening the end of the war.

He said CNMI officials understand that Saipan offers numerous advantages such as access to fuel vessels, better infrastructure, a control tower and existing fuel storage capabilities. He added that any improvement made on Saipan will only enhance the islands and region for future military actions.

"If the USAF determines that Saipan is indeed so advantageous to this mission, we will welcome the Air Force to the Commonwealth," he said.

The acting governor said MIMC's major concerns to the preferred alternative 1 (Saipan) are the noise impacts on the villages of Koblerville, Dandan, and San Antonio, the requirement for additional land leases on and around the Commonwealth Ports Authority property, and the cultural resource adverse impacts on As Lito/Isley Field National Historic Landmark.

The Air Force will prepare its final EIS between July and October, for the release notice of availability for final EIS. A record of decision is expected in December.

The 110-page "Draft Environmental Impact Assessment for Proposed Divert Activities and Exercises, Guam, and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands" was released in June.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT MONETH G. DEPOSA

Officials of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. sign their statement of support for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve during a ceremony at the CEO's office last week. From left are David J. Sablan, ESGR state chair for the Guam-CNMI Committee, corporation CEO Juan N. Babauta, CHC director for Medical Affairs Dr. Jeremy Richards, Emergency Preparedness director Warren Villagomez, and Bureau of Environmental Health director John Tagabuel

Hospital to honor Fr. Villagomez

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The man behind the great leadership that approved the creation of a community public hospital on island will be honored by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and its employees in recognition of his valuable contribution to healthcare delivery in the Commonwealth.

Corporation CEO Juan N. Babauta disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that Fr. Jose G. Villagomez, the former chairman of the Commonwealth Health Coordinating Council between 1980 to 1986, will fly from Guam to receive the commendation next month.

Villagomez is a well-respected Chamorro Capuchin priest ordained in 1974 and has respectably served the CNMI and Guam for over 30 years. He is now serving the people of Guam at the Saint Francis of Assisi Parish in Yona, Guam.

It was in February 1980 when Villagomez was elected chairman of the council, at the time made up of 16 members.

Babauta, who then served as the executive director of the council, told *Saipan Tribune* that the former chairman will be recognized for his dedication, hard work, commitment, and more importantly, his leadership at the council.

"He rallied our leaders regardless of their political affiliations, regardless of how they viewed the future of healthcare delivery system in the CNMI, to come together and agree on building this public hospital. I still feel today that if it were not for his leadership, the debate if we should have this hospital or not will still continue to this day," Babauta said, adding that Villagomez played an important role in the realization of the first public hospital for the CNMI.

Babauta said that Villagomez completed his work without asking for any recognition. Twenty-five years later, remembering the former chairman's hard work is still worthy of recognition, Babauta said.

The Commonwealth Health Center was built in 1985.

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

Korean TV Home Shopping for Northern Mariana Is.

TV home shopping networks continue to be a key part of marketing in Korea for the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) and its partners.

In June 2012 two promotions were launched, with sales continuing through August 2012. On TV station GS Homeshopping, Lotte Tour partnered with Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino to sell 3-night, 4-day packages and 4-night, 5-day packages. On TV station Home & Shopping, Onnuri Tour partnered with Pacific Islands Club Saipan offered a similar package. The two marketing events were also supported by Asiana Airlines and the MVA. The packages also included additional benefits such as island tour, sunset barbeque, Managaha tour, casino coupons, and more.

The marketing promotions aim to sell a combined 1,350 during the promotion period.

As of April 2012, 9,399 visitors from Korea had arrived in the Northern Marianas this fiscal year, an increase of 14 percent compared to the same period last year and 26 percent of total visitors arrivals.

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

Manglona dismisses another lawsuit vs federalization

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court has dismissed a local businessman's lawsuit to stop the implementation of the federalization law in the CNMI, saying it lacks jurisdiction on the matter.

In an order issued Friday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed Joaquin Q. Atalig's lawsuit because he lacks standing.

"Atalig lacks standing because his complaint is a generalized grievance insufficient to show an injury in fact," said Manglona in her eight-page decision and order.

The judge said that Atalig fails to allege any injury peculiar to himself.

Atalig, though counsel Joseph E. Horey, filed the lawsuit against President Obama, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, State Secretary Hillary Clinton, U.S. Labor Secretary Hilda Solis, and U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder.

Atalig wants the court to declare the Consolidated Natural Resources Act (federalization law) to be lawfully unenforceable and that its implementation and enforcement is valid and lawful only with the consent of the people of the CNMI.

The U.S. Department of Justice, as counsel for the defendants, moved to dismiss the case. DOJ's senior litigation counsel Theodore W. Atkinson argued that Atalig cannot relitigate claims that the CNMI government had already litigated and lost more than two years ago.

The CNMI government brought the first lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia in 2008. The district court subsequently dismissed the CNMI's challenge to the CNRA.

The parties in the Atalig lawsuit argued the motion to dismiss on May 10, 2012.

In her Friday ruling, Manglona granted the DOJ's motion to dismiss, but on the alternative grounds of lack of subject matter jurisdiction.

Manglona said that Atalig describes himself as the proprietor of a hotel and rental units but he does not say how, if at all, the CNRA harms him as a property owner or businessperson.

Manglona said that Atalig's central complaint is that the implementation and enforcement of the CNRA in the CNMI inherently violates the Covenant's guarantee of self-government to the people of the NMI, including himself.

The judge said that Atalig's alternative claims—that any provision of the Covenant that would allow infringement of people's right to self-government must violate the Constitution, and that the United States has an independent obligation under the Trusteeship Agreement to secure self-government for the people of the Northern Marianas—are equally general.

"These are abstract injuries of the kind that federal courts have no jurisdiction to redress," Manglona pointed out.

Babauta tours UOG sustainability model home

Anthony M. Babauta, Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas, U.S. Department of the Interior visited the University of Guam Center for Island Sustainability model home on Tuesday, July 17, to learn more about its energy efficient features and the university's Green Initiative. The model home is located at House no. 32 Dean's Circle on the UOG Campus.

After the tour, Babauta spent time visiting with the UOG Green interns. "I wish to commend the University of Guam, President Underwood and the faculty and students for being real pioneers and creative thinkers. Going and being 'green' is much about developing a mindset and trend others seek to emulate," Babauta said.

The Center for Island Sustainability Model Home is open to the public from 8am to 5pm Monday through Friday, and anyone interested may ask for a tour of the house. ***(UOG)***

BOE approves new school calendar for public schools

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The State Board of Education has adopted a new school calendar for public schools that calls for 180 instructional days for elementary and secondary levels effective this school year 2012-2013.

These instructional days will be taken in four quarters with 45 instructional days per quarter. For the first quarter, classes are scheduled from Sept. 4 to Nov. 9, while the second quarter will begin on Nov. 13 and end on Feb. 1, 2013.

For the third quarter, the 45 instructional days are scheduled from Feb. 4 to April 16, while the fourth quarter will last from April 17 to June 20.

All certified personnel of the Public School System, including all teaching employees, are slated to report for work starting Aug. 27 in time for their school-level professional development activities.

According to Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, schoolteachers were consulted about the new calendar, which has 14 official holidays and breaks between instructional days.

Classes will start Sept. 4 at all grade levels, a Tuesday, since the first Monday of the month falls on Labor Day, a holiday.

The board also approved a new school calendar for the Head Start program, which also has 180 instructional days in four quarters that starts on Aug. 29; the last day of instruction is on June 11, 2013.

The board approved 14 holidays: Labor Day (Sept. 3); Commonwealth Cultural Day (Oct. 8); Citizenship Day (Nov. 5); Election Day (Nov. 6); Veterans Day (Nov. 11); Thanksgiving (Nov. 22); Constitution Day (Dec. 7); Christmas Day (Dec. 25); New Year's Day (Jan. 1); Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Jan. 21); President's Day (Feb. 18); Commonwealth Covenant Day (March 25); Good Friday (March 29); and Memorial Day (May 27).

Ten professional development days were also incorporated into the new calendar.

The board also approved a new school calendar for the Early Intervention Program, which has also 180 instructional days from Aug. 29 through June 11, 2013.

New local law gives $15K in poker fees to Rota patients and programs

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos signed into local law a measure that appropriates $15,000 in poker machine fees to Rota patients, scholars, and other programs and services.

House Local Bill 17-84, Substitute 1, introduced by Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), is now Rota Local Law 17-21.

Santos, in an interview yesterday, said she's grateful for the acting governor's signing of the bill into law "because it will be a big help to terminally ill and dialysis patients who have been waiting for their allowance."

Under the new law, $6,300 is appropriated for 14 Rota dialysis and terminally ill patients at $450 each for April 2012.

Some $2,700 will be for nine dialysis and terminally ill patients at $300 each for April 2012.

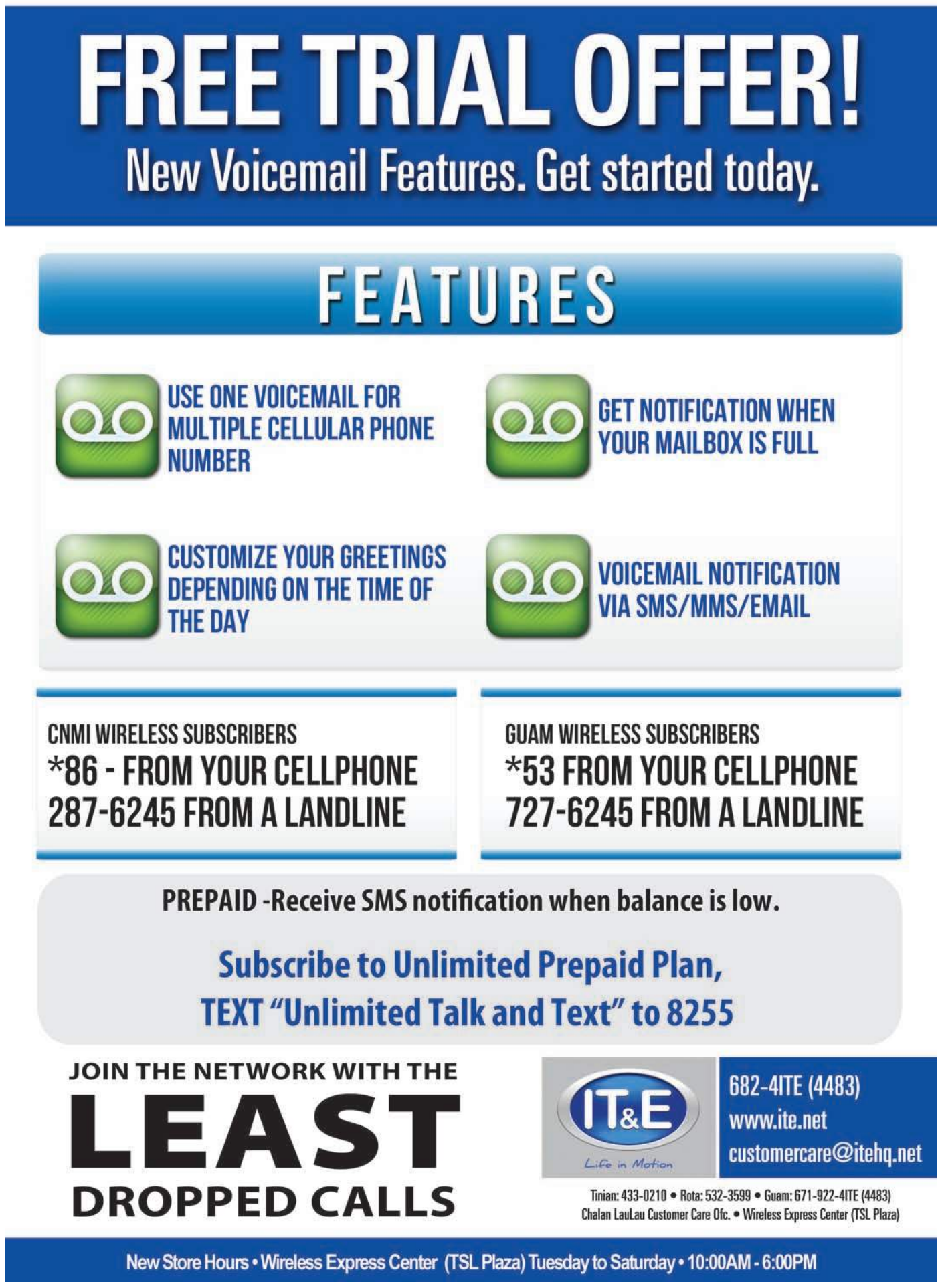
The Rota Municipal Scholarship Foundation, pursuant to Rota Local Law 17-2, will get $1,500 under the newly signed local law.

A total of $1,500 will go toward the retroactive salary payment of affected employees.

The Rota Liaison Office/Rota Medical Referral Office will get $1,659 for fuel and lubrication.

Rota's Department of Public Safety will also get $1,000 also for fuel and lubrication. A total of $341 will go to Aquarius Beach Tower.

Inos, in his transmittal message to Rota Legislative Delegation chair Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) and acting House speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), said he approves the measure "with specific instructions to the Secretary of Finance that the appropriation of $341 for Aquarius Beach Tower in Section 2(g) be disbursed only upon submission of proper documentation showing a public purpose for the expense." ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***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SUSPECT

From Page 1

authorities.

The suspect in the mass theater shooting availed himself of an unregulated online marketplace that allows consumers to acquire some of the tools of modern warfare as if they were pieces of a new wardrobe. The Internet is awash in sites ranging from BulkAmmo.com, which this weekend listed a sale on a thousand rifle rounds for $335, to eBay, where bidding on one armored special forces helmet has risen to $799.

"We're different than other cultures," said Dudley Brown, executive director of Rocky Mountain Gun Owners, which advocates for firearms owners' rights. "We do allow Americans to possess the accoutrements that our military generally has."

Gun rights activists like Brown celebrate that freedom, but even some involved in the trade are troubled by how easily Holmes stocked up for his alleged rampage.

Chad Weinman runs TacticalGear.com, which caters to police officers looking to augment their equipment, members of the military who don't want to wait on permission from the bureaucracy for new combat gear, and hobbyists like survivalists and paintballers. The site receives "thousands" of orders daily, sometimes from entire platoons that are about to deploy to war zones.

On July 2, Holmes placed a $306 order with the site for a combat vest, magazine holders and a knife, paying extra for expedited two-day shipping to his Aurora apartment. The order, Weinman said, didn't stand out.

"There's a whole range of consumers who have an appetite for these products, and 99.9 percent of them are law-abiding citizens," Weinman said. But he said that "it makes me sick" that Holmes bought material from him. He added that he doesn't sell guns or ammunition and that he was "shocked" at the amount of bullets that Holmes allegedly bought online.

Authorities say all of Holmes' purchases were legal—and there is no official system to track whether people are stockpiling vast amounts of firepower.

There is no restriction on the sale of bullets in the United States, except for armor-piercing rounds, which can only be bought by law enforcement, said Ginger Colbrun, a spokeswoman for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Hence the proliferation of websites offering Amazon.com-style wish-lists for hollow-point rifle rounds or tracer bullets.

There is a federal law that bars selling body armor to violent felons—which Holmes was not—but it is rarely used because there are is no requirement to check whether purchasers of the material have criminal records, according to Dan Gross, president of the Brady Campaign Against Gun Violence.

Over four months, authorities said, Holmes received more than 50 packages at his Aurora apartment and the University of Colorado medical school, where he was studying neuroscience. As the boxes piled up, he began to shop for guns at sporting goods stores—because of the need to pass a background check to buy a firearm, they are still generally bought at brick-and-mortar locations.

On May 22, law enforcement officials said Holmes bought a Glock pistol. Less than a week later, he upgraded to a shotgun. The following week he bought an AR-15 rifle, versions of which had been outlawed under the assault weapon ban in 1994. But that prohibition expired in 2004 and Congress, in a nod to the political clout of gun enthusiasts, did not renew it.

Holmes also acquired explosive materials and equipment to rig his entire apartment with a complex series of booby traps that took authorities days to dismantle. Officials have not said how he obtained the material for the devices.

Holmes capped off his gun purchases with another pistol on July 7. Authorities say that, 12 days later, Holmes bought a ticket to the midnight premiere of the Batman movie "The Dark Knight Rises" and entered the theater with the crowd, then slipped out the side door and returned dressed for battle.

Oates said the shooter wore a ballistic helmet, gas mask, throat-protector, tactical vest and pants—such complete protective gear that responding officers almost mistook him for a member of the SWAT team. He lobbed gas canisters at the crowd, then opened fire. By the time police arrived, 90 seconds later, Holmes had shot dozens of people because his rifle was modified with a high-powered drum magazine that allowed him to fire immense amounts of bullets without reloading. "It was a pretty rapid pace of fire in that theater," Oates said.

The high-capacity magazine had also been prohibited under the assault weapon ban, and even though the federal law expired a few states outlaw the devices. Colorado, which has relatively permissive gun laws, does not.

Colorado State Senator John Morse, a Democrat, said he wished the state barred large-capacity magazines and guns like the AR-15, but he does not expect the attack to make that likely. "The NRA has managed to convince the country that this has to happen to protect our Second Amendment rights," Morse said. "As long as we let people buy these guns, we will bury our children."

Rep Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY), whose husband was killed in a mass shooting on the Long Island Railroad in 1993, has proposed a ban on high-capacity magazines in Congress but acknowledges it has little chance of passage. She said she was horrified by the shooting but most shocked by the other material that Holmes allegedly accumulated—the bullets and combat gear.

"It befuddles me to think those things should be sold to the general public," she said.

Colorado State Rep. Mike Waller cautioned against trying to limit purchases of ammunition. He noted that Holmes reportedly bought 300 rounds for his shotgun. "My 13-year-old son and I go out to the shooting range all the time," said Waller, a Republican. "I buy more than 300 rounds of shotgun shells when I do that."

He said there may be discussion of limiting the sale of the sort of protective clothing that Holmes allegedly donned. "Is that what the right to bear arms means, that you can purchase tactical gear to stop law enforcement from preventing you from perpetrating a crime?" Waller asked. "In the days and weeks to come, this is going to be a significant conversation."

But gun enthusiasts caution against over-reacting to the massacre. Brown, of Rocky Mountain Gun Owners, said he thinks citizen's access to weaponry has made the United States "a stronger country." And he doesn't see anything unusual about many of Holmes' alleged purchases.

"If I only had 6,000 rounds for my AR-15s, I'd literally feel naked," Brown said. Then he totaled up Holmes' firearms purchases: "Two handguns, a shotgun and a rifle. That's the average male in Colorado."

CHC

From Page 1

To accommodate more than the usual number of Medicaid dependents would require the hospital to bring in more personnel and add services such as ophthalmology and dental services, which the hospital since stopped, Babauta said.

"…Moving Medicaid patients to CHC is not a sound policy…because we need to beef up our personnel and we will be carrying the burden of people who are not paying. With the amount of money and the resources we have, CHC is not ready for the influx [of patients from private clinics] unless the Legislature will increase the funding for the hospital and the Medicaid program," said Babauta.

He is hopeful, however, that the Senate will provide additional funds for Medicaid when it deliberates on the budget bill for the new fiscal year.

The House of Representatives had just passed a budget bill that allocates only $1.2 million for the Medicaid program for fiscal year 2013—far lesser than the 2012 budget of $2.4 million.

Babauta disclosed that in order to drawdown up to $32 million in Medicaid reimbursements, the CNMI has to come up with about $14 million in local matching funds that the federal side will match with $18 million.

But with what's been happening at the Legislature, Babauta is losing hope that the budget proposal for Medicaid will dramatically change.

He said Medicaid currently has about 19,000 eligible clients who are seeking services both in private clinics and the hospital. This number is projected to increase to 35,000 to 40,000 when the national poverty level of 133 percent is used beginning 2014.

From the corporation's fiscal standpoint, he believes that moving Medicaid to CHC is sound policy because it means additional reimbursement amount for CHC. But the fact that Medicaid has no funding for the reimbursements, he said, will just add to its long-list of unpaid obligations.

Abuse

Babauta believes that some private clinics "abuse" the Medicaid program because there's no utilization review and this can be prevented once Medicaid patients move to CHC.

He cited as example the duplication of prescription drugs and some unnecessary doctor visits that remain unchecked up to this time.

Under the new state plan for the Medicaid program, Medicaid patients who go to private clinics will need to be certified first by CHC that the service the patient requires is not available at the public hospital.

Babauta pointed out, however, that all decisions on where a patient can be referred to is up to Medicaid program director Helen C. Sablan.

"I will just certify the availability of services, but Medicaid makes the final decision…not me or the CHC," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Babauta earlier disclosed that the Center for Medicare Medicaid Services had initially approved the use of the corporation's $5 million seed money as additional matching funds for the Medicaid program. The $7 million line of credit from Marianas Public Land Trust is also being proposed for the same purpose, which is undergoing federal review.

According to the CEO, the corporation will also seek some $800,000 in local allocation for the Tinian medical referral and other health services to be used as additional matching funds for Medicaid.

Medicaid is a federal/state operated program designed for low-income citizens. At present, the CNMI shares 45 percent of the operational funding while 55 percent is funded by the federal government. In the Commonwealth, the program is being administered under the Executive Branch in collaboration with the public hospital.

EXTENSION

From Page 1

ment considered granting improved immigration status to long-term workers years and decades ago, "the workforce would be in a much stable condition."

"The simple solution to stabilizing the workforce is granting improved status to these foreign workers. They have been here for too long that an improved status will not affect the livelihood of the local people or anyone's way of life. Our way of life is like their way of life. They have failed for years and decades to train their residents, another five years of that won't make a difference," Sagana said.

Rabby Syed, president of United Workers Movement-NMI, separately said it is not a good argument for the CNMI government to say that the transition period should be extended to allow foreign workers to be continuously hired because the CNMI has been unable to train the resident workforce for years and decades to be able to run the economy without relying on skilled foreign workers.

Syed and Sagana said a five-year extension will still be not enough for the resident workers to be educated and trained to be able to take over the positions currently filled by close to 12,000 foreign workers petitioned for a transitional Commonwealth-only worker permit.

U.S. Public Law 110-229, the law that placed CNMI immigration under federal control, provides for a transition period not to exceed Dec. 31, 2014.

Under the federalization law, the guest worker population in the CNMI should be zeroed out after the transition period.

The law also provides that the U.S. Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary and the CNMI governor, will assess the CNMI's current and anticipated labor needs to determine whether an extension of up to five years is necessary to ensure an adequate number of workers will be available for businesses in the Commonwealth.

Syed said the United Workers Movement-NMI is now preparing a letter addressed to U.S. Labor Secretary Hilda Solis, asking her not to extend the transition period.

He said copies of the letter will also be sent to DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

Sagana said Dekada is eyeing a joint letter with the United Workers Movement and other organizations "for a unified and strong message" to the U.S. government.

"I am hoping we will have a more united voice on this," he said.

Rene Reyes, founding president of the Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs Ltd., said yesterday that a greater number of MAHAL members and supporters do not want any extension of the transition period.

He said it is time the U.S. government, as well as the CNMI, make a decision on the fate of its long-term legal alien workers.

Reyes reiterated that by not extending the transition period after 2014, the U.S. government would at least be able to make a decision now to give an immigration status much better than the CW-1 status.

Syed, for his part, said within months of the implementation of the transitional CW program, "we've already seen that the program has a lot of problems with it. Another five years of the same thing will not be helpful to everyone, especially the CNMI economy."

Most of the close to 12,000 foreign workers petitioned for a CW-1 permit have yet to be granted such permit.

Florida-based human rights activist and former Rota teacher Wendy Doromal, in her blog, reiterated that "any guest worker program that offers no pathway to citizenship is immoral and unjust."

"Foreigners who are recruited to fill jobs that residents cannot fill should not be treated as replaceable labor units. Foreigners who have lived and worked in a U.S. locality for years and decades should be accepted as members of the community with full economic, political, and social rights. The failure of the U.S. Congress to introduce and pass legislation providing for status for the CNMI's legal, long-term foreign workers is reprehensible," she said.

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Douglas Brennan recently wrote to Napolitano, urging her to help convince U.S. Labor to extend by five years the transition period in the CNMI.

Brennan said the Chamber views the additional transition period as "absolutely necessary to prevent a collapse of our CNMI economy." He said the economy still needs some 12,000 foreign workers.

He said the current transition period is not enough time to phase out the almost 12,000 foreign national employees and replace them with U.S. citizens and/or residents by December 2014."

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has also been saying that he wants an extension of the transition period. But Fitial strongly opposes granting improved immigration status to long-term foreign workers; he want them to remain in the CNMI as contract workers.

CW permit holder finally gets CW visa after several weeks

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

United Workers Movement-NMI president Rabby Syed and other sources said yesterday that the Bangladeshi security guard/maintenance employee already got a Commonwealth-only worker visa from the U.S. Embassy in Bangladesh after some two months of waiting, and is expected to return to Saipan today.

"The updated information we got is that he just recently got his CW visa, after waiting for some two months since his interview at the Embassy so now he's coming back to Saipan," Syed told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The CW permit holder works at Saipan Health Clinic as a security guard/maintenance employee, and is not with a security agency as earlier reported, sources said.

Syed said the fact remains—"He waited for a long time to get a CW visa, about two months. I think USCIS [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services] and the State Department should work together to come up with a smoother processing of CW visa applications."

Syed

He said CW permit holders are concerned that they too might have to wait for weeks or months to get an approved CW visa at the U.S. Embassy in their country of origin, or worse, get denied.

Marie Thérèse Sebrechts, USCIS regional media manager, said, "USCIS works regularly with other federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of State. The Department of State is aware of and issues CW visas."

Kelly McCarthy, press and information officer at the U.S. Embassy in Dhaka, Bangladesh, said yesterday: "Like USCIS, the U.S. Department of State is bound by the same public law that protects privacy [and] is not able to comment on individual cases."

Syed said the Bangladeshi CW permit holder "waited for almost two months despite going through the application process" and the same thing could happen to other CW permit holders if the federal government's CW visa application process is not improved "soon."

Another source said a second CW permit holder had his interview for a CW visa at the U.S. Embassy in Bangladesh last week, but there is no telling whether the second CW permit holder would also wait for two months to get a CW visa.

Syed said he hopes the second applicant at the Embassy in Bangladesh would not have to wait for some two months to get a CW visa.

Another CW permit holder, a Filipino, was denied a CW visa at the U.S. Embassy in the Philippines apparently because the worker was earning only the CNMI's current minimum wage of $5.05 an hour and not $7.25 an hour. A consul at the embassy thought the CNMI minimum wage is now $7.25 an hour. But the embassy has since confirmed that the CNMI's minimum wage is currently $5.05 an hour and the worker is about to get an approval of his CW visa application days after it was denied.

WPS principal appeals detention order to Ninth Circuit

Whispering Palms School principal Thomas Weindl is appealing to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit the federal court's order for his continued detention while awaiting trial on a child porn charge.

Weindl, through counsel, filed a notice in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Friday about his appeal to the Ninth Circuit.

Weindl wants the Ninth Circuit to reverse U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona's detention order issued on July 17.

No argument was presented in the notice of appeal.

The 57-year-old Weindl is facing charges of using a laptop to view child pornographic materials, mostly of 11-year-old girls.

After conducting a detention hearing, Manglona said the facts require that Weindl be kept detained after finding probable cause to believe that he has committed an offense for which a maximum prison term of 10 years or more is prescribed

The judge determined that the defendant has not rebutted the presumption that no condition will reasonably assure his appearance and the safety of the community.

Weindl

In the U.S. government's motion, the prosecution cited that as indicated in the e-blaster reports, Weindl searched for and accessed almost 200 websites containing images of child pornography.

E-blaster is a computer and Internet monitoring software program.

The prosecution said that several of the searches conducted and websites accessed, specifically reference "11-year-old girl" and "12-year-old" engaging in sexual conduct.

The prosecution added that Weindl also searched for images depicting the violent sexual abuse of children.

Federal Bureau of Investigation agents arrested Weindl last month on charges of receipt of child pornography and accessing child pornography with intent to view. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

KONFITMA EXERCISE
Members of the Tactical Response Enforcement Team escort two of five suspected "terrorists" arrested after a shootout at the defunct La Fiesta Mall in San Roque as part of the 36-hour hour full scale all-hazard KONFITMA exercise on Saipan and Tinian last Tuesday.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

BIRTHDAY GIRL
Belated happy birthday greetings go out to Juleen Guen Hiponia, who celebrated her 18th birthday on July 20, 2012, at the Susupe branch of Shirley's Restaurant and Coffee Shop.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Davis asks judge to decide his lawsuit on its merits

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

John H. Davis Jr. asked the federal court yesterday to reconsider its decision to dismiss his lawsuit for lack of jurisdiction and instead decide the case on the merits.

Davis' lawsuit seeks to stop the Commonwealth Election Commission from denying U.S. citizens who are not of Northern Marianas descent the right to vote on any issue regarding Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution or on any other issues.

Article 12 limits land ownership in the CNMI only to those of NMI descent.

Davis, through counsel Jeanne H. Rayphand, filed the motion requesting U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona to amend her judgment of June 26, 2012.

Rayphand said that Manglona should reconsider her decision to "correct clear legal error and prevent manifest injustice." She said the court has a duty and obligation to protect the fundamental rights of all U.S. citizens.

The lawyer said the right to vote is a fundamental right in the CNMI. "This court should protect the right of every United States citizen to participate in elections on an equal basis with other citizens in the Commonwealth," she said.

In her decision on June 26, Manglona had said that the dismissal of the lawsuit is without prejudice as she has not reached the merits of the case yet. Dismissal without prejudice is when a case is dismissed but the plaintiff is allowed to re-file a new suit on the same claim in the future.

In her ruling, Manglona said that Davis' injury is not actual because it does not occur until he is denied the right to vote or his ballot is disallowed. At the same time, the judge said that Davis' injury is not imminent because no petition or initiative relating to Article 12 is on the November 2012 ballot.

In Davis' motion to alter or amend judgment, Rayphand said that Manglona has failed to consider the fact that the injury has already occurred. "A violation of the Voting Rights Act has already occurred," she pointed out.

Rayphand said that CEC chair Frances M. Sablan and CEC executive director Robert A. Guerrero, who are named defendants in the case, violated the Voting Rights Act by setting up a separate registry for voting on any proposed amendment to the Constitution regarding Article 12.

"The application of voting standards and procedures in a discriminatory fashion results in denying plaintiff and other persons not of Northern Marianas descent the right to register to vote in any election regarding any proposed amendment to the Commonwealth Constitution regarding Article 12," Rayphand said.

She said the violation of the Voting Rights Act and the deprivation of Davis' civil rights is complete by the discrimination in registration.

"No election need be scheduled and no initiative need be on the ballot. The injury has taken place. Mr. Davis has standing and the issue is ripe for decision," the lawyer added.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP12-DEQ-092

SUBMISSION: AUGUST 15, 2012 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE CNMI A PROJECT UNDER THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER JULY 10, 2012 AT THE DEQ FRONT DESK OR CAN BE RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO **raymasga@deq.gov.mp**

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED ON **JULY 30, 2012 AT 9:30 A.M., LOCAL TIME**, IN THE 2ND FLOOR DEQ CONFERENCE ROOM. QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE FAXED TO MR. RAY MASGA AT (670) 664-8540 NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **AUGUST 02, 2012.**

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE ***IS NOT AVAILABLE***, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR, DEQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP12-DEQ-094

SUBMISSION: AUGUST 15, 2012 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"DEVELOP SITE MANAGEMENT PROCESS GUIDANCE DOCUMENT & APPROPRIATE FORMS FOR EACH PROCESS ELEMENT WITHN THE STATE RESPONSE PROGRAM A PROJECT UNDER THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **JULY 10, 2012** AT THE DEQ FRONT DESK OR CAN BE RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO **raymasga@deq.gov.mp**

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/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR, DEQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

More educational programs eyed for AMP

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Officials from the Pacific Historic Parks disclosed yesterday the group's plan to bring in more educational programs, not only for CNMI school children but also for incoming U.S. Marines and their families who will be assigned on the islands.

The Pacific Historic Parks is an organization that supports and funds educational materials, museum exhibits, and interpretive programs for four national parks throughout the Pacific, which include Hawaii's Pearl Harbor, Guam's War in the Pacific Historical Park, the Kalaupapa Historical Park, and Saipan's American Memorial Park. It was founded as a nonprofit cooperating association with the National Park Service in 1979 and was formerly known as the Arizona Memorial Museum Association.

Yesterday, Pacific Historic Parks president and CEO Brad L. Wallis, vice chair Noel W. Bragg, regional manager for Guam and Saipan Cynthia Rapadas, and retail business manager Edean S. Saito were on a daylong visit to the American Memorial Park.

The group is scheduled to fly to Tinian today for an exploration trip.

» Pacific Historic Parks execs tour Saipan, Tinian

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Rapadas disclosed that they would like to see in a couple of years the establishment of more educational programs at Saipan's memorial park, including the Education on Wheels and the Junior Ranger Academy programs, both of which are offered in Guam.

The Education on Wheels program provides free transportation for schoolchildren who want to visit the park, its visitor center, exhibits, and movies.

A collaboration with the Public School System will also soon be initiated to give the American Memorial Park more information about PSS and its needs, Rapadas said.

Guam's Junior Ranger Academy is a weeklong program conducted every spring and fall semesters to children aged between 10 and 12. Participants will attend half-day sessions for a week focusing on fun activities at the park. A badge will be awarded to participants at the end of the program that will allow them to become junior rangers.

"Our theory is: children learn better when they play. So in this academy, everything is focused on playing and enjoying resources at the park," Rapadas told *Saipan Tribune*.

She also praised the successful implementation of the Ridge-to-Reef Rangers program on Saipan, which teaches students the importance of preserving the health of watersheds.

Meantime, Braggs said that the Pacific Historic Parks is also interested in the U.S. Marines, who are part of the ongoing military buildup.

"Marines are coming and with these Marines are their families. There will be traffic and demand for resources, utilities, and education. So we hope to participate in satisfying that need [of education]," said Bragg, adding that Pacific Historic Parks can help in their integration by telling the stories of Saipan and Tinian to these incoming children and families through their educational initiatives.

There is a bill now pending in Congress that proposes an extension of the American Memorial Park on Tinian. Bragg, who supports the legislation, said the project may take a long time to realize but creating an extension on Tinian will create greater access to Tinian's wartime stories. Two-thirds of Tinian is being leased by the U.S. Department of Defense.

According to Bragg, the group's visit to Saipan coincides with the launching of a brand new $2.4-million multimedia exhibit in Guam and the introduction of newly installed CEO Brad L. Wallis, a first-timer to the islands.

Wallis yesterday told *Saipan Tribune* that as it is also the group's objective to promote an understanding of the subsequent wars in the Pacific, while helping to provide a greater appreciation of the people involved in that critical history.

Besides accepting donations for the parks, the organization also sells items as souvenirs and for educational purposes, according to the CEO.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Visiting officials of the Pacific Historic Parks gather for a group photo during their daylong visit to the American Memorial Park yesterday. From left are vice chair Noel W. Bragg, head sales associate Shoko Calvert, retail business manager Edean Saito, regional manager for Guam and Saipan Cynthia Rapadas, and president and CEO Brad L. Wallis.

Man, 65, allegedly sexually assaults neighbor

Police arrested a 65-year-old man who allegedly sexually assaulted his neighbor in Afetnas on Saturday morning.

Emilio Dela Pena was taken to the Superior Court yesterday morning on charges of sexual assault in the second degree and assault and battery.

A $26,000 cash bail was initially imposed for Dela Pena's temporary release.

» Defendant denies charges, saying he was only returning cup

Police detective J.B. Cepeda stated in his report that a police officer was dispatched at 8:44am to Afetnas where an attempted rape allegedly occurred.

Cepeda said that when the officer arrived at the scene, the victim was hysterical and told him that her neighbor, Dela Pena, tried to rape her.

The victim claimed that Dela Pena had gone to her house at 8:30am and asked for coffee. At the time, the victim said she was boiling water for her herbal medicine.

The victim said that when she got up to check the fire, Dela Pena followed her and grabbed her breasts. Dela Pena also allegedly tried to remove her shirt and attempted to kiss her, but she struggled.

When she shouted, "Call the police!" the suspect ran to his house then left on a car.

At 3pm that same day, the victim called the police again after seeing Dela Pena return home. Responding police officers arrested the suspect.

Cepeda said that in his interview with Dela Pena on Sunday at the Department of Corrections, the suspect stated that the complainant called him to come to a picnic table outside her house to drink coffee.

Dela Pena claimed that as his neighbor was bending over to check the firewood, he came behind her and touched her shoulder with his left hand and tried to give her his cup with his right hand.

Dela Pena said the complainant then swung her left arm, pushed him away, and threatened to call the police.

Dela Pena said he tried to explain that he had no intention of touching her breasts or doing something to her. He said he left the house to do his laundry. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Administration appoints new student rep to BOE

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos has appointed Audrey Joy Ada as the new representative of public school students on the Board of Education.

Ada, whose term begins immediately, replaces Mary Hocog, who recently graduated from Tinian High School.

The public school student representative is a non-voting board member and the appointment does not require the advice and consent of the Senate. The member's term is good for the duration of his or her enrollment in a public school.

"The Board of Education plays a vital role in ensuring the best education possible for our students. Gov. [Benigno R.] Fitial and I are confident that you will make a valuable contribution, and we appreciate your willingness to serve and provide input from a student's point of view," stated Inos in his appointment letter to Ada.

Ada was endorsed by both Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan and board chair Marylou S. Ada.

According to the board chair, Audrey Joy Ada is currently a junior at Marianas High School and has a tremendous background in student leadership programs and involvement at her school.

Audrey Joy Ada was described as open-minded, hardworking, responsible, and works well with people. She is also friendly, dependable, possesses a positive attitude, with excellent time management skills.

Audrey Joy Ada completed her elementary education at Garapan Elementary School.

She is active in numerous community activities and had served several capacities in various organizations and groups. Audrey Joy Ada was student council president and vice president last school year 2011-2012.

In school year 2010, she was a Youth Congress senator and was elected as its vice speaker. Audrey Joy Ada is also her sophomore class historian and member of the Chamorro Club and active in NMI American Red Cross initiatives. Ada was team captain in the recent Marianas March Against Cancer.

In summer 2011, Ada worked at the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services as food quality and safety assistant.

A constitutionally created education policy-making body, the Board of Education is composed of elected members from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. It also has non-voting seats for representatives of students and teachers.

Audrey Joy Ada's appointment is part of the rotation approach approved by the board.

AFTER THE RAIN HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Motorists pass through flooded roads between Joeten Dandan and Northern Marianas College after recent heavy rains. This is just one of the flood-prone areas on Saipan that has remain unaddressed for years.

HANMI: Hotel occupancy rate at 60 pct. in May 2012

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported 59.76 percent occupancy among its 12 member hotels for May 2012, a 7-percent increase from May 2011.

A total of 44,495 of 74,462 available room nights were sold in May 2012, compared to 39,319 of 74,648 of available room nights sold over the same period last year. Room rates were $97.39 during the month, compared to $92.19 last May.

"May is traditionally a shoulder season for travel, but 60 percent occupancy falls way below the break-even point of 80 percent," said HANMI chair Nick Nishikawa. "We are looking forward to more visitors in the summer months."

So far this calendar year, hotel occupancy is at an average of 75.97 percent, 9 percent higher than last year's.

May year-to-year comparisons also reflect the room closures of Coral Ocean Point Resort earlier this year.

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the NMI. ***(HANMI)***

Mixed reactions in A. Samoa over minimum wage hike delay

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (The Samoa News/PIR)—Workers here have mixed reactions to federal legislation passed last week by the U.S. House of Representatives to delay the next minimum wage increase in American Samoa until 2015. The bill, which originated from the U.S. Senate, is expected to be signed into law by President Obama.

» Congress OKs 3-year postponement of increase in A. Samoa

Vitale Tufuga of Aua, who works for a local construction company, says 2015 is three years away and by that time, the cost of living will have gone further up and workers are faced with the hardship of trying to meet financial needs, especially the continuing increase in the costs of goods.

Aliitasi Fepuleai, a cashier at a local restaurant is strongly against the delay in wage increases because while the minimum wage will remain the same until 2015 the cost of living continues to go up. She says the LBJ Medical Center recently increased fees and ASPA rates have gone up, adding more burden to workers and families in the territory.

Alesana Afamasaga and his wife Fegauia'i—both workers at StarKist Samoa—say that whatever the final decision is on this issue, they would respect it. "Perhaps it's better to maintain the current level of minimum wage instead of another increase that could cause another reduction in workforce," said Alesana, who was reluctant to comment fearing it would affect their employment status.

Four other StarKist Samoa workers interviewed by *Samoa News* said they support the delay for now. One worker said that maybe a three year break will give the companies operating in the territory time to readjust their budgets and operations in a way that when the next 50 cent hike is implemented, there will be sufficient funding to support the hike in labor cost.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

J.C. Tenorio Enterprises manager Darlene Macaranas, second from left, and Vicky Benavente, left, together with volunteers from the Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation hold up the Certified Angus Beef that Joeten will be donating for the upcoming Saipan's Next Top Chef Competition.

Joeten co-sponsors Saipan's Next Top Chef Competition

J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, which owns the chain of Joeten stores on island, will be co-sponsoring the upcoming Saipan's Next Top Chef Competition.

Darlene Macaranas, manager, J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, said, "We are pleased to support this charity event."

The Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation is coordinating the fundraising event, which will take place on Saturday, July 28, 2012, from 2pm to 4pm, at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

The Foundation's mission is to raise funds to support women, children, and families in need on Saipan, Kenya, the Philippines, and Bangladesh by inspiring, empowering, and providing necessary tools to help them find financial solvency. Volunteers are advocates who donate their time and effort to support charitable programs.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Shelli Neal (287-2368) or Vicky Benavente (483-8425). ***(PR)***

PACIFIC BRIEFS

US House subcommittee approves Palau Compact renewal

KOROR, Palau (Island Times/PIR)—The Office of the President has announced that the lead U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee that has jurisdiction over the Compact of Free Association Review Agreement unanimously approved the agreement. The agreement was approved at the subcommittee level and still needs the approval of the whole House of Representatives and the Senate before it goes to President Obama for his signature. The President's Office said that the agreement, negotiated by President Johnson Toribiong and Compact Review Ambassador Joshua Koshiba, has been supported by chairmen and ranking minority party representatives of all of the committees of Congress with jurisdiction over it.

Dengue outbreak in Niue affects 8 pct. of population

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Two tourists visiting Niue have been taken to hospital with dengue fever. More than 100 people, or about eight percent of the population, are believed to be suffering from the fever and visitors are being warned to use insect repellent during early morning and evening. Dengue, which does not often occur on Niue, has been afflicting the island since February. It was originally confined to a small area of Niue's main village but has now spread throughout the island. One local man recently died from a serious form of the virus.

Several hundred rally in Tahiti over fuel price increase

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Several hundred people in French Polynesia have joined a meeting outside the assembly to call for the latest fuel price hike to be rescinded. The gathering was called by the group Te Tau no te Hono, which last week unsuccessfully tried to block the access to Tahiti's port when it launched its protest. On the second day of action, the group—made up of a range of professionals—blocked a key road but failed to bring Papeete to a halt. The weekend gathering outside the assembly heard several speakers express their misgivings about the way the economy is managed by the territorial administration. There is no indication that the government of Oscar Temaru will authorise a drop in fuel prices.

UN official says Tuvalu lacks safe drinking water, sanitation

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation says more water storage is needed in Tuvalu. Catarina de Albuquerque visited Tuvalu this week and concluded that people not only lack water but adequate sanitation including access to toilets and bathing facilities. She says people are facing a catastrophe, with difficulties maintaining water pipes and septic tanks and a lack of means to store water. "There is a need for more storage capacity. There is also a need among some of the families I met who are economically deprived. There is also a need from supporting them in making sure that they have sufficient money to buy the gutters and the plumbing and that connects the water tanks to their houses."

Pacific airlines meet for 56th general session of ASPA

NADI, Fiji—Members of the Association of the South Pacific Airlines met in Nadi, Fiji for the 56th General Session of ASPA held from July 19 to 20, 2012.

Welcoming members to the forum, ASPA chair Didier Tappero, spoke on the challenges facing the aviation industry in the region and the support ASAP could provide to members in addressing these issues.

"Many of the regional carriers are continuing to consolidate and review their business models to ensure long-term sustainability. This is felt necessary due to increased competition and demand from [the] traveling public for more efficient operations, particularly for travel within the region. This is where the biggest challenge lie," said Tappero, who is also vice chair of AIRCALIN.

Accordingly to Tappero, commercial aviation in the region is largely driven by tourism and the problems in this area has been further compounded by entry of low-cost carriers into the region forcing competition on several routes for the first time.

Another challenge for regional airlines relates to tourism flow into the region, which was very uneven, with 55 percent of tourists visiting two countries only—Fiji and French Polynesia. This was attributed to lack of tourism infrastructure in other countries.

"In some countries aviation infrastructure needs upgrading, including runway resurfacing and procurement of new navaids," said Tappero. "These are unfortunately very expensive and require outside assistance."

The general session saw presentations from many members, partner agencies, and stakeholders such as the International Air Transport Association, the South Pacific Tourism Organization, Stephenson Harwood, Cascade Engineering, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Boeing, Air Terminal Services, Fiji Limited, Embraer, Pacific Energy, Norton White, and Aerosure.

Airbus also presented a one-day executive airline seminar on July 18, 2012, attended by 20 airline executives.

Training is one of the key success stories of ASPA and the Secretariat continues to work closely with IATA for more training courses for rest of 2012 and 2013. In this regard, ASPA plans to continue to pursue funding for the Regional Training Program and to conduct at least six courses per year.

ASPA is also encouraging regional airports to join ASPA and allow them to have their own separate forum during the ASPA general sessions. Four new regional airports are expected to join next year.

There is an increasing trend by governments to enforce new charges related to government services at the airport, such as bio-security, immigration, and customs. ASPA will continue to represent the airlines' interest in this area.

ASPA also intends to undertake other actions such as monitoring the review of civil aviation harmonization with the NZ Rules and encouraging airlines to cooperate more to improve intra-regional air connectivity.

An important future plan for ASPA is to encourage airlines to implement the Integrated Aviation Management System, which has been developed specifically for ASPA under the IATA Infield Training assistant program in collaboration with the Secretariat.

Members noted that ATS Fiji had implemented their own IAMs (ATSF-IAMS) and used this to pass the ISAGO Audit without any findings—a record according to IATA.

Established in 1979, ASPA serves the interests of 14 airline companies representing 10 countries, together with 24 service provider members. In 2011, ASPA full members carried more than 5.6 million passengers and employed more than 7,000 local staff. ***(ASPA)***

Free NMC information sessions this week

Individuals interested in furthering their education and advancing their professional careers are encouraged to attend free information sessions hosted by the Northern Marianas College on July 25 and 27, 2012.

The first information session, which is open to all prospective students and community members, is on Wednesday, July 25, 2012, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in Room D-1 at the college's As Terlaje campus.

The next information session, which is for working professionals (including all government and private sector employees) and those who wish to attend college after delaying enrollment (did not enter college in the same calendar year that he/she finished high school), will be on Friday, July 27, 2012, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in Room D-1.

At both sessions, NMC faculty, staff, and students from the different degree and certificate programs at NMC, as well as Student Services representatives from counseling, financial aid, and admissions will be on hand to provide helpful information and answer questions.

At the second information session, other important topics will be presented, including the increase in weekend and night classes in order to accommodate working individuals who are not able to attend classes during the workweek. In addition, financial aid options will also be discussed. For instance, the college offers a 50-percent discount on tuition for government employees who are ineligible to receive other scholarships.

Those who attend either session will also qualify to have their application fee and their placement test fees waived for NMC's upcoming fall 2012 semester. This represents a savings of about $75.

The college is also reminding new students who have not applied for admission that the deadline to apply for admission to NMC for the fall 2012 semester is on Wednesday, July 31, 2012. For more information about NMC's Fall 2012 registration and semester, visit www.nmcnet.edu.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis on elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

For more information about the information sessions and/or applying to NMC, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at (670) 234-5498 Ext. 1528/1540 or email oar@nmcnet.edu, or visit www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

CUSTOMER SERVICE TRAINING SHRM

Mailau Pome'e, standing right, is shown here interacting with Malou Ernest, standing left, during a Customer Service class under the Workforce Readiness Initiative program of the Society for Human Resource Management. The recent training program for Hotel Front Desk Clerks and Administrative Clerks and Receptionist had the largest number of participants yet—21 trainees—who graduated on June 30, completing a week of job preparation and administrative skills in their efforts to prepare themselves for employment in the CNMI's private sector.

Deadline nears to register for PSS online courses

The deadline to register for CNMI PSS fall 2012 online courses is Friday, Aug. 17, 2012.

To register for a fall 2012 online course, go to www.goo.gl/VJJwc. Online courses start Sept. 4, 2012.

View the fall course catalog to see what is available for elementary, junior high, and high school students.

Course catalogs and required high school documentation can be downloaded at www.cnmipss.org.

Submit required documents by email or in person at the Distance Education Center inside the MHS campus. Should you have any questions, contact Jeaniffer Cubangbang at 237-3014 or jeaniffer.cubangbang@cnmipss.org.

Courses for fall 2012 include Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, Pre-Calculus, AP Statistics, U.S. History, AP U.S. History, U.S. Government & Economics, NMI History, Health, Environmental Science, Biology, Chemistry, Integrated Literature & Composition (LA 1), World Lit, American Lit, British Lit, Pre-AP English Language, AP English Language, Chamorro, Carolinian, Japanese 1, Accelerated Reading & Writing, Financial Literacy, SAT Prep, Teacher Academy, Student Leadership, Computer Applications, Aviation, Psychology, Reading Literacy, and Keyboarding.

The registration website is updated with courses as they become available. Courses will not be offered without the minimum number of students. Register and earn required graduation credits today! ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 9th birthday greetings go out to Jonaret Marthan M. Cepeda! May your day be filled with lots of blessings, love, and more wonderful birthdays to come! My princess, stay as special as you are! We love you! Greetings come from Mommy, Daddy, Anjonet, and your *familia.*

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Survivors, caregivers support meeting on Thursday

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 26, 2012, at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, starting at 5:30pm. This month's support meeting guest speaker will be Trina Sablan, Healthy Lifestyle Promotion Coordinator, NCD Bureau. Her presentation will feature detailed information on health promotion. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email ccamarianas@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

TES kindergarten enrollment

Kindergarten registration at Tanapag Elementary School will begin on July 23 and will run up to Aug. 3, from 7:30am to 4:30pm at the main office of the school campus. There will be only 20 slots for kindergarten. It's a first-come, first-served basis. Requirements include a registration form, health clearance/ certificate, birth certificate, prove of guardianships, and map of residency. For more information contact the main office at 237-3162/4. ***(PR)***

Air Force, Navy training on FDM, Warning Area 517

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on July 23-27, from 8am to 12:59am.

The Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on July 24-25, from 8am to 5pm.

The general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. ***(PR)***

Cleanup, Paint, and Beautify Day at MHS

On Saturday, Aug. 4, 2012, the Marianas High School Parent Teacher Association will conduct a Cleanup, Paint, and Beautify Day at the MHS campus. The PTA invites all parents, students, teachers, and any other interested members of the community to meet at the MHS at 7:30am to help prepare the campus for the new school year. For more information, contact Bobbie Torres at 287-6463, Martin Dalsaso or John Davis at 237-3202/4. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 24, 2000

Tinian airport expansion gets $6.51M more

An additional funding of $6.51 million was earmarked last Friday by lawmakers for the West Tinian International Airport expansion project after its initial estimated budget of $17 million fell short of actual costs. Half of that money will come from the proceeds of the forthcoming $60 million bonds that the government will float to finance various capital improvement projects in the CNMI, while the other half will be from the federal construction grants under the Covenant Section 702 funding. The House of Representatives cleared the appropriation bill sponsored by Tinian Rep. Norman S. Palacios to set the process in motion and is now awaiting action by the Senate.

PSS gears up for more technology- oriented schools

Public education in the CNMI is becoming more technology-oriented with close to $500,000 in new financial assistance awarded by the U.S. Schools and Libraries Division to the Public School System to equip each classroom with latest technology devices. With resources available to connect schools to Internet and distance learning, PSS is anticipating lesser hurdles in linking public schools on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian through interaction using Internet-ready computers, cellular phones, and long distance telephone communication. PSS had earlier aimed for an 82 percent telecommunication discount rate or E-Rate to avail of these services from SLD but was only granted a discount of up to 76 percent.

July 24, 2001

MVA woos Chinese carrier to serve Saipan

Tourism officials are courting the China Southern Airlines to provide nonstop service between the country and Saipan, to accommodate the increasing number of CNMI-bound Chinese travelers. Marianas Visitors Authority officials are scheduled to fly to China next month for a goodwill visit. Officials are also expected to meet with travel agents in the country. In an interview, MVA Board Chair Dave M. Sablan disclosed plans to tap the assistance of the China Southern Airlines and open negotiations for a possible direct flight between China and Saipan.

Fitial decries Miller's bashing of US areas

House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial yesterday condemned US Rep. George Miller's most recent anti-CNMI statements and said it would be unfair for the latter to "continue bashing us with recycled allegations that may no longer hold true." The House leader was reacting to Miller's latest "Dear Colleague" letter that sought action on alleged labor malpractices and worker exploitation in American Samoa, at the same time presenting Saipan as an example of "what any US entity should not be like." "Mr. Miller's sweeping generalizations are uncalled for," said Fitial. "That the situation on Saipan has significantly changed for the better since the time labor abuse allegations were made in the late 1980s or early 1990s, I think, is indisputable. Yet, I suppose it is most difficult to convince someone who refuses to see the truth."

July 24, 2002

CPA removes 15-minute free parking

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has removed free parking privileges for vehicles using its Saipan airport and seaport parking facilities for a period that is 15 minutes or less. The CPA Board of Directors scrapped the 15-minute grace period previously accorded to car owners using the agency's parking areas at the airport and at the harbor in hopes to increase revenue in light of the continued decline in ports-related activities. The CPA board ordered the removal of the grace period last June 28, 2002, according to Saipan Seaport Manager Tony Cabrera.

US passport fees to increase

The U.S. Department of State recently noted that the changes are the result of an independent fee study done to ensure that the true costs of providing consular services to Americans are recovered. This includes services to Americans provided at U.S. embassies and consulates abroad, as well as the passport applications processed in the U.S. The application fee for first-time adult customers will increase from $60 to $85. The fee for minors under 16 years old will increase from $40 to $70. The adult renewal application fee will increase from $40 to $55. The additional cost for expedited service will increase from $35 to $60.

Saipan Soccer School donates balls to NMIFA, clubs

On July 6, 2012, the Saipan Soccer School donated soccer balls to the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association and its six clubs at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

The donation was in line with Tan Holdings' 40th anniversary of doing business in the region.

Club and NMIFA officials were on hand to receive the balls from the Saipan Soccer School and Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan. ***(PR)***

IFC gets 40 balls of size 5. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Matansa gets 40 balls of size 4 and 40 balls of size 5. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MP United is presented with a donation of 40 balls of size 4 and 40 balls of size 5. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association is presented with a donation of 40 balls of size 4 and 40 balls of size 5.

The Paire Football Club gets 40 balls of size 4 and 40 balls of size 5. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Shirley's Football Club is presented 40 balls of size 4 and 40 balls of size 5. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tan Holdings Football Club is presented with 40 balls of size 4 and 40 balls of size 5. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Paranoia in the House

In the 1950s, Sen. Joe McCarthy and other paranoid anti-communists saw Reds under the bed—and in the State Department. Today a fringe group of conservatives believes similarly that Islamic fundamentalists have infiltrated the deepest recesses of the American government.

In refuting such an aspersion made by Rep. Michele Bachmann, R-Minn., against a State Department official, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., has struck a profile in courage that should encourage other conservatives to distance themselves from crackpot conspiracy theories.

On Wednesday McCain defended Huma Abedin, a Muslim-American who serves as deputy chief of staff to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. In a letter to the inspector general of the State Department, Bachmann and four other Republican representatives had warned that Abedin, a longtime Clinton aide, "has three family members—her late father, her mother and her brother—connected to Muslim Brotherhood operatives and/or organizations." The letter was one of five sent to inspectors general of various agencies citing "serious security concerns" about Muslim Brotherhood penetration.

McCain said the attacks on Abedin "have no logic, no basis and no merit, and they need to stop now. I have every confidence in Huma's loyalty to our country, and everyone else should as well." On Thursday, House Speaker John A. Boehner, R-Ohio, added, "Accusations like this being thrown around are pretty dangerous."

It's gratifying that leaders like McCain and Boehner have come to the defense of a well-regarded victim of guilt by tenuous association. But the Republican Party as a whole needs to dissociate itself from the larger neo-McCarthyite worldview that informs Bachmann's ravings.

The letters to the inspectors general cited the Center for Security Policy, a group founded by Frank Gaffney, a radio host and former Reagan administration official. The group's website offers a breathless video tutorial about the stealth "civilization jihad" being pursued by the Muslim Brotherhood through the "penetration and subversion of this country's civil society and governing institutions."

Such delusions have consequences. On July 15, Clinton's motorcade in Alexandria, Egypt, was pelted with shoes and tomatoes by protesters who accused the United States of having supported the election of President Mohamed Morsi, the candidate of the Muslim Brotherhood. A *New York Times* report traced that sentiment in part to a July 4 installment of Gaffney's online radio program.

The notion of an Islamic Fifth Column in this country is poisonous not only to domestic tranquility but also to effective diplomacy. Leaders of both parties should repudiate it.

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The Sinai becomes another Mideast tinderbox

By FRIDA GHITIS
The Miami Herald

Frida Ghitis writes about global affairs for The Miami Herald. *Readers may send her email at fjghitis@gmail.com.*

The Middle East can look like a fireworks display firing out of control. There's so much going on you don't know where to look. One place that urgently warrants closer attention is the Egypt's lawless Sinai Peninsula, which risks becoming the flashpoint that sets fire to the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt.

At this moment, neither Egypt nor Israel wants peace to collapse. But the political chaos in Egypt has created a dangerous situation in the small desert peninsula that separates the two countries, and there are groups already working to exploit the instability.

The growing danger was a topic of discussion during Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's recent visit to the region. And it was highlighted by the kidnapping of two American tourists who were visiting Sinai.

The problem is security, but it comes drenched in flammable politics.

When the Tahrir Square uprising began, Egypt started to lose control of the Sinai, an area that has already stood at the heart of the complicated relationship between Israel and Egypt.

Israel returned the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt after the 1978 Camp David Agreements. The peninsula's Red Sea beaches have become a major source of tourist revenue and jobs for Egypt, with thousands of tourists visiting every year, many of them from Israel. But the native population, mainly Bedouin tribes, has seethed with resentment as the central government in Cairo has neglected its needs.

The Bedouin that populate the area have been joined by a growing number of Islamist radicals, some freed or escaped from Egyptian prisons, others making the Jihadi pilgrimage from places like Afghanistan and Pakistan. Several reports, including many from local residents, say the militants have built small Jihadi training camps near the Israeli border. The presence of the polite, bearded foreigners is an ominous reminder that an outbreak of fighting would place them in the crossfire.

Many Bedouins make their living on the margins of the law, smuggling arms and other goods to the Hamas-controlled Gaza strip, which borders Egypt's Sinai. They have also smuggled people, bringing migrants from Africa across the border into Israel.

The months since the fall of the Mubarak regime have brought countless bombings of the natural gas pipeline that carried fuel from Egypt to Israel and Jordan. It has also seen a sharp escalation in the number of kidnappings for ransom and, most troubling, a major uptick in attempted terrorist attacks against Israel. I say most troubling, because this is the kind of activity that could trigger a war between Egypt and Israel.

A few weeks ago, on June 18, militants crossed from Sinai into Israel and fired rocket-propelled grenades and Kalashnikov rifles, killing an Israeli construction worker.

Aviv Kochavi the Israeli military's intelligence chief, told Israel's parliament that the country's military forces have stopped about a dozen attacks from Sinai.

In the deadliest incident, which occurred in August of last year, eight Israelis were killed when terrorists infiltrated through Sinai into Israel near the resort city of Eilat. In the battle that ensued, Israeli soldiers killed the attackers. But they also accidentally killed five Egyptian police officers.

The tragedy triggered the worst crisis in decades between Israel and Egypt. A mob in Cairo assaulted the Israeli embassy, coming close to killing Israeli diplomats who had to flee for their lives.

Kochavi says the terrorist groups that have set up camp in Sinai may be deliberately trying to use the attacks to create a diplomatic crisis.

Persistent attacks against Israeli civilians from militants based on the Egyptian side of the border create pressure for a response. But Israel wants to avoid a cross-border confrontation with Egypt's fledgling new government.

Complicating the situation, the Sinai counts a large multinational military observer force, including several hundred American (and Colombian) soldiers, part of the Camp David peace deal, aiming to prevent a recurrence of hostilities.

The treaty also limits the number of Egyptian soldiers allowed in the buffer zone. Israel has agreed to let more Egyptian forces enter, but with the rise of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, Israelis are even more nervous about allowing the massing of Egyptian military forces at their border.

Ironically, the brewing crisis on the Sinai Peninsula will force Israel and Egypt to work together, since both countries, at least right now, have the common goal of ending the lawlessness. It's a joint challenge, but a difficult and dangerous one. It's hard to stop the fireworks once the first spark has set them off.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A downpour

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

Shenyang is always overcast these days so I bring my umbrella to the language center I go to on weekend afternoons to instruct a class of elementary grade students. For an hour and a half, with guardians (mostly mothers) in attendance, I teach students Oral English, and give trainers' training to the guardians so that they too can join their children in the learning process.

Our methods are unorthodox compared to the regular classes that go by the book (Cambridge prints the texts, which are simply a copy of British materials adopted to Chinese pictures); our quixotic effort a drop in the bucket to a massive book-centered industry of training China's young in the second language that the nation has adopted. I get the product of 10-year's worth of book instructions at the university level where students pass writing and reading tests, but are incapable of speaking the language at all.

After Sunday's session, I walked out into a downpour. One of the parents offered a ride but I declined since I value the walk as one of my exercises to counter the bulging middle. What normally takes less than a 10-minute walk ended up to be 30. The downpour flooded the street reminiscent of another one the week before that we wrote about when we were stuck in traffic of a three-mile ride from the Metro in a taxi we ended up pushing.

From our ground level perspective, the drainage and sewage systems are working in this new development district of Daoyi north of Shenyang city, but like other construction efforts, the design and construction are made to meet minimum standards. With the radical alteration brought about by climate change, it is no longer enough. (The building of structures to meet minimum standards was revealed in the Fukushima nuclear plant where safeguards proved inadequate.)

China's construction industry has become almost like the U.S. New Deal's "public works" counterpart in providing employment since the government essentially guarantees much of the financing, so construction proceeds without regard to customer satisfaction. One only has to Google abandoned cities and idle apartment buildings to discover the extent of the non-performing assets built on the ground.

With the rush to construct, the meeting of adequate safety standards is often missing. Today, it became obvious that the absorptive capacity of the streets and the yards is not sufficient to handle unaccustomed downpours. We finally walked barefoot as the waters rushing through the sidewalks into the streets got ankle deep.

We wondered how the city fared since our previous experience had been an uncomfortably wet one, but the news broadcast came with bleaker news. Beijing not only had flash flooding, it also experienced mudslides as a downpour that had not been seen in the area in the last six decades came down and soaked the capital city with a vengeance.

We remember Beijing on our first visit in 1989 when there was only one circular road, and the Metro had yet to make it to the drawing board. It was a picturesque city then, almost like quaint French Indochina, or some sections of the old Shanghai, of broad boulevards and endless stream of bicycle riders. That is, of course, gone.

The traffic jams and gridlocks in Beijing are worse than those of Manhattan. On our last visit, we got stuck for five hours in a gridlock returning from the Great Wall covering a distance that normally takes an hour to drive. That same year, a 62-mile gridlock on the Beijing-Zhangjiakou highway to neighboring Hebei province took 11 days to unravel. Gridlock is a regular occurrence in Beijing; add wetlog and one stares at human disaster.

Beijing is a huge national municipality, but smart enough to build horizontally into satellite cities, though skyscrapers have sprouted if only because of the glossy "face" competition to construct the latest in metropolitan architecture. Precisely due to the rapid construction that has occurred in the last two decades, of highways and subways to service the new glass and steel edifices, the basic engineering to dispose of downpours is missing. For that, young *Beijingren* are flooding Sino blogs highlighting Tokyo's underground flood controls to awaken public planners what they missed to provide.

Downpours were not limited to Beijing. From India through Sichuan into Shaanxi, with even normally dry Xinjiang and Nei Mongol unspared, flash floods and mudslides exacted their toll in destruction and human suffering. And we quibble if climate change is just bad science!

A downpour of a different order has descended on other parts of the world. The healing type was in Norway on the first year anniversary of the racially motivated bombing that took 77 lives. The grieving type has gripped the people of Aurora in Colorado for the assault at a midnight screening of the most recent Batman movie by a seemingly smart neuroscience student who plotted long before pulling the trigger.

We are trying to catalyze a downpour of a particular learning that shies away from just passing tests into learning how to live an awakened conscious life. That's a deluge we are willing and trying to trigger.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Promises

Promises are considered assurances or pledges; a man's word, his bond. Cash may be in short supply in the CNMI but promises are always cheap and easy. The two most recent promises are casinos and marijuana. The incidental promise is that once these are approved the economy will be booming. Of course these are political promises so the more you hope the more they're worth. Nonetheless a promise is a promise. People do believe in them. And when promises are made there are consequences and obligations.

The all-time classic CNMI promise is the Retirement Fund. It is unsurpassed in promises, obligations, and unforeseen consequences. The promise was that all government employees could retire in their mid-50s (or sooner) and live out their lives in relative comfort. This is what the layman in the CNMI believed. So he built his future on it. The layman did not understand the details and left that up to the leaders.

Another promise, this one implied, is that there will always be a government job for party backers. They may have to wait until their party gets in office or back in office but if someone backed a party, they could get a government job and after awhile they could retire and live happily ever after in paradise. Of course there were bells, whistles and other trinkets added to the retirement promise, along with total neglect to make this completely unrealistic. Nonetheless a promise is a promise.

Now that these promises have been made the consequences are a huge burden to the government, over $320 million in consequences. Politicians, who made the obligations of this retirement promise, do not want to obligate anyone to pay for this promise. But what are the options? One option is to just walk away. When the Fund runs dry, leave those that believed in the promise to fend for themselves. Of course this will leave some old folks destitute and the burden of support will fall on their friends, families, the youth, and those meager public services available.

A consequence of this is that the people of the CNMI will look even worse than they do now. And now, according to official court records, the way the CNMI Retirement Fund has been treated is shameful. So walking away from this obligation may be an option but not without consequences that could be worse than shameful. If a bond is passed the obligation is deferred to the next generation, along with current CNMI taxpayers.

Politicians don't like obligating anyone to pay taxes, especially in an election year. Why should businesses and taxpayers be burdened with political/government promises/obligations? Oh, wait! Isn't this CNMI government retirement obligation part of the cost of government in the CNMI? It could be considered an unnoticed consequence/overlooked overhead of promises made; totally ignored and neglected expenses of government services. Did anyone complain about the whole cost of public services, the full price of promised government jobs along with an unrealistic retirement package when the promises were being made? Never mind that the service delivery platform was bloated, inefficient and infested with cronyism, things were fine until the full price of these services became known. The layman did not understand the details and left that up to the leaders. So promises are cheap and easy but they do have consequences.

Juan Cruz
Austin, Texas

Census surveys: Information that we need

By ROBERT GROVES
The Washington Post

Robert Groves is director of the U.S. Census Bureau.

Modern economies run on statistics; businesses, governments and households base their decisions on them. Our world, facing great economic uncertainty, needs rich economic statistics. With them, we know how well the economy is providing for the public well-being. With them, businesses can identify opportunities for growth and new markets, building jobs with each data-based decision.

All developed countries have some method of generating timely statistics on basic social and demographic attributes of neighborhoods, small communities and counties. With them, we know whether city services match needs. With them, we know whether success rates of our schools are changing.

The central statistical tool for such small areas in the United States is the American Community Survey (ACS). A more efficient way to gather detailed data than the old "long form" of the decennial census, the ACS annually costs about 77 cents per person in the country. The economic census, a tool critical to gathering U.S. economic statistics, costs even less, 41 cents per person. You spent more than that to buy this newspaper.

Unfortunately, the appropriations bill considered by the House of Representatives eliminates both programs. In a sense, these programs are bridges that support decisions as the United States travels forward. Were this legislation enacted, it would dismantle our data bridge to our future.

Without the economic census, important survey coverage of the economy that informs such measurements as gross domestic product would be threatened. We can't misread changes in the economy at a time when it is paramount that all of us have solid facts.

Without the ACS, communities and businesses will make riskier decisions about where to place schools, hospitals and retail outlets. In short, without these data bridges, the road ahead will become more difficult.

I have directed the U.S. Census Bureau since 2009, after decades of working in academic research institutes. My colleagues at the bureau are revolutionizing how the highest-quality statistics can be produced as cheaply as possible. One of the ways we are saving money is using the ACS to build a more efficient 2020 Census. We also plan to save money by adding an Internet option to the ACS in January.

The statistics from the economic census and the ACS depend on the participation of businesses and households. Each does its part by providing answers to the questions; the agency assembles the answers to create the statistics. Every Congress, starting with the first Congress, has deemed the resulting statistics so important that participation is mandated by law.

The ACS is fully funded in the Senate version of the appropriations bill. A separate amendment to the House appropriations bill, however, would make participation in the ACS voluntary.

A voluntary ACS would cost more taxpayer money to produce the same-quality statistics, at a time when the Census Bureau is trying to produce better statistics with less money. Given that change of design, we do not know how much more would have to be spent to give communities high-quality estimates from a voluntary version of the ACS. Research needs to be done before such a drastic change is made.

Since the House voted in May to eliminate the American Community Survey, effectively dooming the economic census, some who had supported the cuts have said publicly that they may have undervalued these tools' impact on individual businesses and communities and their ability to help steer the country back to economic prosperity. Others have said they meant only to "send a message." Their message has been heard, and we understand their concerns. We can improve these surveys, but only if we keep them funded while we research needed reforms.

A strong country is strong because it knows itself. Statistical information is central to that strength; we need stronger data bridges, not to dismantle those we are now using.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88 ° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

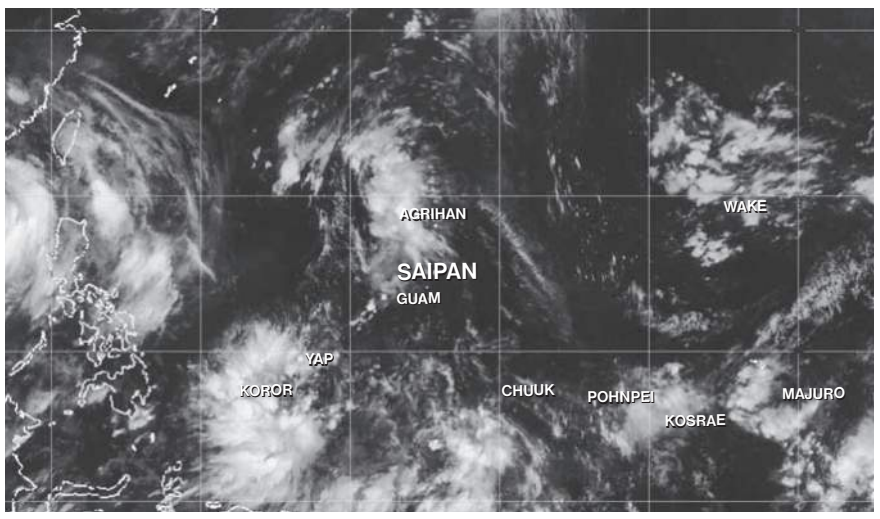
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲86	▼80
Palau	Showers	▲83	▼74
Yap	Showers	▲90	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲85	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲88	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲61	▼55
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲78	▼73
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88	▼83
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼75
London	Sunny	▲80	▼61
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼64
Manila	Thundershowers	▲84	▼79
Melbourne	Showers	▲57	▼46
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼79
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼68
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲89	▼77
Paris	Sunny	▲82	▼62
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼76
Rome	Thundershowers	▲82	▼68
Salem	Sunny	▲82	▼58
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼55
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼72
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲88	▼76
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲94	▼73

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, MONDAY, JULY 23, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough meanders eastward through 18N130E to 17N136E then turns south to a circulation centered south of Yap at 6N139E then extends southeastward to end south of Pohnpei at EQ161E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are present near Koror and Yap between 1N and 10N from 131E to 145E south of Chuuk within 150 miles of a line from EQ150E to 5N151E and south of Kosrae south of a line from 5N159E to 6N165E. A surface trough just west of the Marianas extends northeast from 11N143E to 17N145E. Another surface trough east of Guam extends northeast from 10N149E to 14N150E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found across the Marianas between 10N and 20N from 140E to 152E. An upper-level low is centered northwest of Saipan at 19N136E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring southwest of Iwo To island within 120 miles of 22N137E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of Majuro, Butaritari and Tarawa east of a line from 7N173E to EQ175E. An upper-level low centered north of Wake Island at 24N166E is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 19N and 25N from 164E to 171E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:00 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
6:25 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
11:46 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
6:10 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:57 AM	6:50 PM
Wednesday	5:58 AM	6:49 PM
Thursday	5:58 AM	6:49 PM
Friday	5:58 AM	6:49 PM
Saturday	5:58 AM	6:48 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:10 AM	10:20 PM
Wednesday	11:06 AM	11:06 PM
Thursday	12:03 PM	11:54 PM
Friday	1:03 PM	
Saturday	2:04 PM	12:47 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 14, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

0Z606/120	2:20am	8:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/120	2:50am	8:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via SPN

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)

UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL286	7:40pm	12:15am +1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

0Z119/606	9:30am	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

US poverty on track to rise to highest since 1960s

WASHINGTON (AP)—The ranks of America's poor are on track to climb to levels unseen in nearly half a century, erasing gains from the war on poverty in the 1960s amid a weak economy and fraying government safety net.

Census figures for 2011 will be released this fall in the critical weeks ahead of the November elections.

The Associated Press surveyed more than a dozen economists, think tanks and academics, both nonpartisan and those with known liberal or conservative leanings, and found a broad consensus: The official poverty rate will rise from 15.1 percent in 2010, climbing as high as 15.7 percent. Several predicted a more modest gain, but even a 0.1 percentage point increase would put poverty at the highest level since 1965.

Poverty is spreading at record levels across many groups, from underemployed workers and suburban families to the poorest poor. More discouraged workers are giving up on the job market, leaving them vulnerable as unemployment aid begins to run out. Suburbs are seeing increases in poverty, including in such political battlegrounds as Colorado, Florida and Nevada, where voters are coping with a new norm of living hand to mouth.

"I grew up going to Hawaii every summer. Now I'm here, applying for assistance because it's hard to make ends meet. It's very hard to adjust," said Laura Fritz, 27, of Wheat Ridge, Colo., describing her slide from rich to poor as she filled out aid forms at a county center. Since 2000, large swaths of Jefferson County just outside Denver have seen poverty nearly double.

Fritz says she grew up wealthy in the Denver suburb of Highlands Ranch, but fortunes turned after her parents lost a significant amount of money in the housing bust. Stuck in a half-million dollar house, her parents began living off food stamps and Fritz's college money evaporated. She tried joining the Army but was injured during basic training.

AP

This July 16, 2012, photo shows new parents Garrett Goudeseune, 25, Laura Fritz, 27, left, with their daughter Adalade Goudeseune, as they pose for a photo at the Jefferson Action Center, an assistance center in the Denver suburb of Lakewood.

Now she's living on disability, with an infant daughter and a boyfriend, Garrett Goudeseune, 25, who can't find work as a landscaper. They are struggling to pay their $650 rent on his unemployment checks and don't know how they would get by without the extra help as they hope for the job market to improve.

In an election year dominated by discussion of the middle class, Fritz's case highlights a dim reality for the growing group in poverty. Millions could fall through the cracks as government aid from unemployment insurance, Medicaid, welfare and food stamps diminishes.

"The issues aren't just with public benefits. We have some deep problems in the economy," said Peter Edelman, director of the Georgetown Center on Poverty, Inequality and Public Policy.

He pointed to the recent recession but also longer-term changes in the economy such as globalization, automation, outsourcing, immigration, and less unionization that have pushed median household income lower. Even after strong economic growth in the 1990s, poverty never fell below a 1973 low of 11.1 percent. That low point came after President Lyndon Johnson's war on poverty, launched in 1964, that created Medicaid, Medicare and other social welfare programs.

"I'm reluctant to say that we've gone back to where we were in the 1960s. The programs we enacted make a big difference. The problem is that the tidal wave of low-wage jobs is dragging us down and the wage problem is not going to go away anytime soon," Edelman said.

Global economy in worst shape since 2009

WASHINGTON (AP)—The global economy is in the worst shape since the dark days of 2009.

Six of the 17 countries that use the euro currency are in recession. The U.S. economy is struggling again. And the economic superstars of the developing world—China, India and Brazil—are in no position to come to the rescue. They're slowing, too.

The lengthening shadow over the world's economy illustrates one of the consequences of globalization: There's nowhere to hide.

Economies around the world have never been so tightly linked—which means that as one region weakens, others do, too. That's why Europe's slowdown is hurting factories in China. And why those Chinese factories are buying less iron ore from Brazil.

As a result of this global economic slowdown, the International Monetary Fund has reduced its forecast for world growth this year to 3.5 percent, the slowest since a 0.6 percent drop in 2009. Some economists predict the global economy will grow a full percentage point less.

For now, few foresee another global recession. Central banks in China, Britain, Brazil, South Korea and Europe have cut interest rates in the past month to try to jolt growth. European leaders have begun to focus more on promoting growth, not just shrinking debt and cutting budgets.

The Chinese government, in particular, is expected to do what it takes to protect its economy from deteriorating too quickly. And despite their slowdowns, China and India are still growing at rates America and Europe can only imagine.

But many economists say European policymakers aren't moving fast enough to strengthen European banks and ease borrowing costs for Italy and Spain. They fear the global impact if Europe's economy deteriorates further.

Stock prices in the United States and elsewhere are fluctuating almost daily depending on the outlook for a resolution of Europe's debt crisis.

Around the world, sales at companies ranging from automakers to technology companies are falling. Advanced Micro Devices, a California-based maker of computer chips used in everything from slot machines to smart cameras, says revenue likely dropped 11 percent in the second quarter because of weaker-than-expected sales in China and Europe.

AIDS conference: Critical turning point for HIV

WASHINGTON (AP)—From dark days to a critical turning point in the AIDS epidemic: The landscape has changed dramatically in the two decades since the world's largest AIDS conference last met in the United States.

Back in 1990, the first good medicines were still a few years away. Before they arrived, caring for patients with HIV was like "putting Band-Aids on hemorrhages," said the leading U.S. AIDS researcher, Dr. Anthony Fauci.

Fast forward: Today's anti-AIDS drugs work so well they not only give people with HIV a near-normal life expectancy, they offer a double whammy—making those patients less likely to infect other people.

Sunday, the International AIDS Conference opened in the nation's capital with the goal of "turning the tide" on HIV. Even without a vaccine or a cure, the goal is to finally stem spread of the virus, using that so-called "treatment as prevention" and some other powerful protections.

"There is no excuse, scientifically, to say we cannot do it," Fauci, infectious disease chief at the National Institutes of Health, told reporters Sunday.

But the challenge that more than 20,000 scientists, doctors, people living with HIV and policy-makers will grapple with this week is how to get to what the Obama administration calls an AIDS-free generation. Where's the money? What works best in different countries and cultures?

And with HIV increasingly an epidemic of the poor and the marginalized, will countries find the will to invest in the most vulnerable?

"Rich countries think, `Who cares? We have the treatment, I hear now that HIV is a chronic condition,'" a worried French Nobel laureate Francoise Barre-Sinoussi, co-discoverer of HIV, told The Associated Press. "I really think there is not the same political commitment as it was in the past."

That political commitment must expand to fight laws that are driving some of the populations most at risk—gay and bisexual men, sex workers and injecting drug users—away from programs that could help protect them from getting or spreading HIV, said Michel Sidibe, director of UNAIDS, the United Nations AIDS program.

"It's outrageous that in 2012, when we have everything to beat this epidemic, that we still have to fight prejudice, stigma, exclusion," he said.

People living with HIV marched through downtown Washington Sunday to urge the public and policy-makers to pay attention to a disease that, in this country, doesn't get much publicity anymore.

"We're everyday people. Anybody and everybody can catch this," said Ann Dixon, who traveled from Arkansas to attend the march. She learned she had HIV in 1997.

The AIDS conference—remarkable for giving a forum not just to leading scientists but to everyday people who live with HIV—hasn't returned to the U.S. since 1990, in protest of the longtime ban on people with the virus entering the country. The Obama administration lifted the travel ban in 2010, finishing a process begun under the Bush administration. Not lifted was a ban on sex workers and injecting drug users, and protesters briefly interrupted the opening news conference to decry their absence from the meeting.

The conference comes at a time when scientists increasingly say they have powerful new tools to add to tried-and-true condoms.

Studies show treatment-as-prevention, treating HIV right away rather than after someone is sick, lowers patients' chances of spreading the virus through sex by a stunning 96 percent. Already, Fauci said regions that are pushing to get more people tested and rushed into treatment are starting to see infections drop, from San Francisco and Washington to part of South Africa.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration just approved use of a daily AIDS medicine, Truvada, for use by healthy people hoping to lower the risk of infection by a sexual partner. Hard-hit poor countries are grappling with how to get that protection to their highest-risk populations.

Other goals include getting more HIV-infected pregnant women treated to protect their babies, and getting more men circumcised in developing countries to protect them from heterosexual infection.

But the hurdles are huge.

Since the first reports of AIDS surfaced 31 years ago, a staggering 30 million people have died from the virus and 34.2 million now are living with HIV around the world.

There's still no cure and no vaccine. For every person who starts treatment, two more are becoming infected.

Nation

Movie massacre suspect mum; Batman mask found

AURORA, Colo. (AP)—University of Colorado officials were looking Sunday into whether James Holmes used his position in a graduate program to collect hazardous materials, but school officials weren't saying whether they knew the suspect in a movie theater massacre was anything more than a hard-working student.

Law enforcement officials also revealed that Holmes, 24, has not been cooperating with them and that it could take months to learn what prompted the attack early Friday on a packed theater of moviegoers watching the premiere of the latest Batman movie. The assault killed 12 and left 58 wounded.

Investigators found a Batman mask inside Holmes' apartment after they finished clearing the home of booby traps and ammunition, a law enforcement official close to the investigation said Sunday on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the news media.

Meanwhile, President Barack Obama flew to Colorado for a few hours to comfort residents in a state that's critical to the November election. He began his visit with the family members of the victims at the University of Colorado Hospital, which treated 23 of the people injured; 10 remain there, seven hurt critically. The hospital is a short drive from the site of the shooting.

After meeting with the families, he said that he was there "not as president but as a father and a husband."

He said that "we can all understand what it would be to have someone taken from us in this fashion."

Holmes was being held in solitary confinement at a Denver-area county detention facility, Aurora Police Chief Dan Oates said, and is "lawyered up."

"He's not talking to us," the chief said. He is scheduled for an initial hearing Monday at 9:30 a.m. MDT, and has been assigned a public defender.

Police have said that Holmes began buying guns at Denver-area stores nearly two months before Friday's shooting and that he received at least 50 packages in four months at his home and at school. Also on Sunday, a gun range owner east of Denver said he recently rejected a membership application from Holmes in part because of a bizarre voice mail greeting on Holmes' phone.

While the University of Colorado disclosed that it was cooperating with police in the case, that disclosure was one of the few the university has made three days after the massacre. It remained unclear whether Holmes' professors and other students at his 35-student Ph.D. program noticed anything unusual about his behavior.

His reasons for quitting the program in June, just a year into the five- to seven-year program, also remained a mystery.

Holmes recently took an intense, three-part oral exam that marks the end of the first year. Those who do well continue with their studies and shift to full-time research, while those who don't do well meet with advisers and discuss their options, including retaking the exam. University officials would not say if he passed, citing privacy concerns.

The university said Holmes gave no reason for his withdrawal, a decision he made in June.

Holmes was not allowed access from the institution after his withdrawal, which was "standard operating procedure" because he was no longer affiliated with the school, Montgomery said. Holmes had no contact with university police, she said.

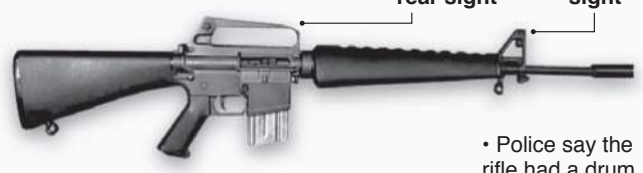
The university declined to release any details of his academic record, citing privacy concerns, and at least two dozen professors and other staff declined to speak with The Associated Press. Some said they were instructed not to talk publicly about Holmes in a blanket email sent to university employees.

Jacque Montgomery, a spokeswoman for the University of Colorado medical school, said that police have told the school to not talk about Holmes. The university also took down the website for its graduate neuroscience program on Saturday.

Weapons the gunman had

Police have yet to release complete details about models of guns allegedly used by suspected gunman James Holmes in his attack at a movie theater in Aurora, Colo., but basic data is available:

Colt AR-15 semi-automatic rifle
Civilian version of U.S. military's M-16

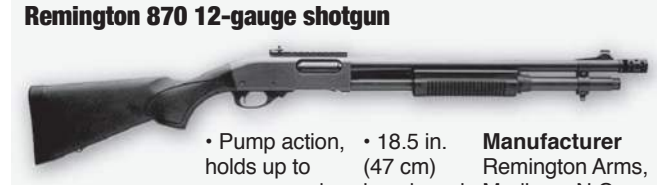


Manufacturer: Colt Industries, Hartford, Conn.

- Police say the rifle had a drum magazine, which could hold 100 rounds
- Effective range is about 1,300 ft. (400 m)

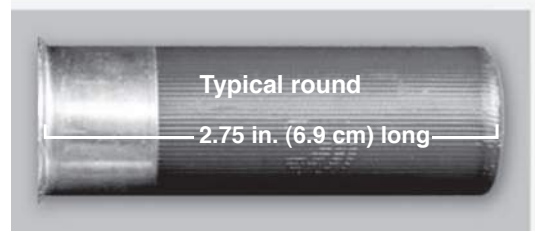
.223 caliber round

Remington 870 12-gauge shotgun



- Pump action, holds up to seven rounds
- 18.5 in. (47 cm) long barrel

Manufacturer Remington Arms, Madison, N.C.



- Police say the shooter left this weapon in the theater

Glock pistols

Precise model types of the two Glocks the shooter had were not released

- Police say the shooter's Glocks were .40 caliber models
- Shown here is the Glock 23, a model popular among police

Source: Denver Post, Colt, Remington Arms, Glock Graphic: Robert Dorrell © 2012 MCT

Obama: Hugs, tears, hope with families, survivors

AURORA, Colo. (AP)—Despair all around him, President Barack Obama on Sunday offered hugs, tears and the nation's sympathy to survivors of the Colorado shooting rampage and to families whose loved ones were shot dead. He looked for hope in the heartbreak, insisting a brighter day will come for the grieving and declaring that "much of the world is thinking about them."

In dramatic detail, Obama offered a glimpse inside the horror that took place in the Denver-area movie theater early Friday, relaying a story he said spoke to the courage of young Americans. With two fingers pressed to his own neck, Obama recalled how one woman saved the life of a friend who had been shot by keeping pressure on a vein that had "started spurting blood" and by later helping carry her to safety.

In private, Obama visited one by one with anguished families gathered at a hospital and wounded patients recovering in intensive care. He emerged before the TV cameras and kept his focus on the lives and dreams of the fallen and the survivors, not the sole shooting suspect or his "evil act."

"I come to them not so much as president as I do as a father and as a husband," said Obama, addressing reporters from a hospital hallway after his visits. "The reason stories like this have such an impact on us is because we can all understand what it would be to have somebody we love taken from us in this fashion."

For a president nearing the end of his term and seeking a second one, it was another grim occasion for him to serve as national consoler in chief, a role that has become a crucial facet of the job. National tragedies compel presidents to show leadership and a comforting touch—or risk a plummeting public standing if they cannot match the moment.

The massacre in the Aurora movie theater left 12 dead and 58 wounded. It also temporarily silenced a bitter campaign fight for the White House between Obama and Republican Mitt Romney.

Both men were searching for the right time and manner to re-enter the political debate.

Obama's stop in Colorado—which happens to be a key electoral state in the race—came as he was about to shift into a mix of campaign fundraisers and official travel across the West starting Monday. Romney resumed political activities Sunday in California, where he courted Republican donors in three fundraisers in the San Francisco area.

"I know the president is in Colorado today," Romney told supporters while keeping a subdued tone. "He's visiting with families and friends of the victims, which is the right thing for the president to be doing on this day—appreciate that."

Obama said his conversations with family members were filled with memories of brothers, sons and daughters who had left their mark on others. He said there were laughs as well as tears.

Lobstermen finding more odd colors in the catch

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)—When a 100-pound shipment of lobsters arrived at Bill Sarro's seafood shop and restaurant last month, it contained a surprise—six orange crustaceans that have been said to be a 1-in-10-million oddity. "My butcher was unloading them and said, `Oh, my gosh, boss, they sent us cooked dead lobsters,'" said Sarro, owner of Fresh Catch Seafood in Mansfield, Mass. "He then picked one up and it crawled up his arm."

Reports of odd-colored lobsters used to be rare in the lobster fishing grounds of New England and Atlantic Canada. Normal lobsters are a mottled greenish-brown.

But in recent years, accounts of bright blue, orange, yellow, calico, white and even split lobsters—one color on one side, another on the other—have jumped. It's now common to hear several stories a month of a lobsterman bringing one of the quirky crustaceans to shore.

It's anybody's guess why more oddities are popping up in lobster traps, said Michael Tlusty, research director at the New England Aquarium in Boston.

It could be simply because advances in technology—cellphone cameras and social media—make it easier to spread the word about bizarre lobster sightings.

It's also likely more weird lobsters are being caught because the overall harvest has soared. In Maine, the catch has grown fourfold in the past 20 years, to nearly 105 million pounds last year. If the yield has quadrupled, it would make sense to have four times as many unconventional lobsters being caught as well.

Although lobster is the No. 1 commercial fishery in the Northeast, there are a lot of unanswered questions about the bottom-dwelling creatures, he said.

"Are we seeing more because the Twitter sphere is active and people get excited about colorful lobsters?" Tlusty said. "Is it because we're actually seeing an upswing in them? Is it just that we're catching more lobsters so we have the opportunity to see more?

"Right now you can make a lot of explanations, but the actual data to find them out just isn't there."

Lobsters come in a variety of colors because of genetic variations.

It's been written that the odds of catching a blue lobster are 1-in-2 million, while orange comes in at 1-in-10 million. Yellow and orange-and-black calico lobsters have been pegged at 1-in-30 million, split-colored varieties at 1-in-50 million, and white—the rarest of all—at 1-in-100 million.

But those are merely guesses, and nobody knows for sure.

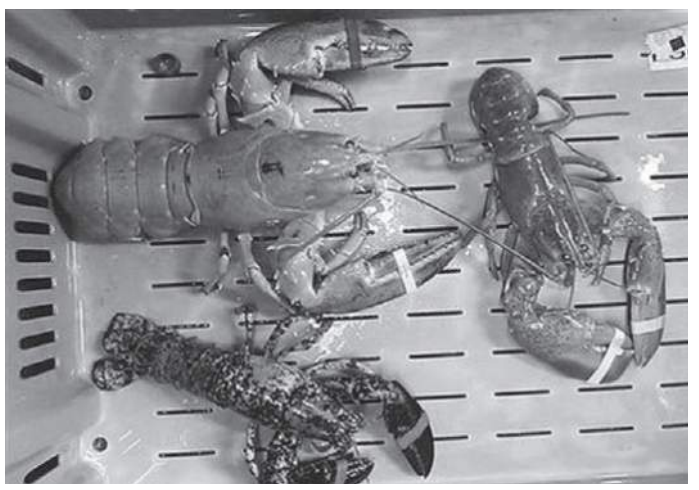
What is known is that colored lobsters have shown up in greater frequency in certain areas over the years.

The waters off Cutler in eastern Maine were once a hotbed for blue ones, after 1,500 larvae-sized blue lobsters were released in 1990 to use as a tracking tool to determine their survival rates, said Bob Bayer, executive director of the University of Maine's Lobster Institute.

The waters off Montauk, N.Y., once had a lot of blue lobsters as well, he said, after researchers released large numbers of blue lobsters there. The bright-orange lobsters that were in Sarro's shipment are believed to have come from the same waters in Canada.

Aside from their color, the lobsters are apparently normal in all other ways, Bayer said. They all turn red when they're cooked, except for the white ones since they don't have any pigment, and diners wouldn't notice a difference.

"There's no difference in taste," he said.



AP

This file photo made Tuesday, June 26, 2012, by Rebecca McAleney, shows a bright orange, left, a bright blue, right, and a calico lobster at New Meadows Lobster in Portland, Maine.

Asia

Rain storms kill at least 37 in Beijing

BEIJING (AP)—Officials have raised the death toll to at least 37 in the heaviest rainstorm to hit Beijing in six decades, and dozens of other storm deaths have been reported elsewhere in China.

The rain Saturday night knocked down trees in Beijing and trapped cars and buses in waist-deep water in some areas. A statement from the city government late Sunday said 25 people drowned, six were killed when houses collapsed, one was hit by lightning and five were electrocuted by fallen power lines.

The official China Daily newspaper reported Monday that rain and flooding caused damages of at least 10 billion yuan ($1.6 billion), with 60,000 people evacuated from their homes.

The official Globe Times said Monday that it was the heaviest rainstorm in the capital in 61 years.

It was the heaviest on record in Fangshan district in the southwest of the city, which received 460 millimeters (18.4 inches) of rain Saturday, according to the weather bureau. The agency also said suburban Pinggu district got 100.3 millimeters (4 inches) of rain in one hour.

A flash flood in Fangshan stranded 104 primary school students and nine teachers at a military training site, Xinhua said. They were taken to safety.

Elsewhere, six people were killed by rain-triggered landslides in Sichuan province in the west, Xinhua News Agency said, citing disaster officials.

Four people died in Shanxi province in the north when their truck was swept away by a rain-swollen river. In neighboring Shaanxi province, state media said at least eight people died and 17 were missing after heavy rains hit.

China suffers flooding and dozens of storm-related deaths every summer during its rainy season, but such a heavy downpour in relatively dry Beijing is unusual.

The capital's skies were clear Monday, with traffic back to normal. The city's main airport was operating normally after hundreds of flights were canceled or delayed over the weekend.

AP

A photographer takes pictures of a newly wed couple in the rain at a garden outside an apartment in Beijing, Saturday, July 21, 2012.

Vietnam ranks worst in wildlife crime report

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—A conservation group ranked Vietnam the worst country for wildlife crime Monday in its first-ever report on how well 23 Asian and African countries protect rhinos, tigers and elephants.

WWF said Vietnam's tiger farms and its citizens' voracious appetite for rhino horn as a supposed cure-all helped put it at the top of the list. Neighboring China, widely viewed as the world's largest market for illegal wildlife products, finished a close second, and Laos was third.

The Switzerland-based WWF focused its report on countries where the threatened animals live in the wild or are traded or consumed.

Many consumers in Asia demand illegal wildlife products for their purported, if unproven, medicinal properties. The Washington D.C.-based Brookings Institution has said the illegal wildlife trade is worth an estimated $8 billion to $10 billion per year in Southeast Asia alone.

The WWF report said Vietnam is "the major destination" for rhino horns trafficked from South Africa, where 448 rhinos were poached last year. Rhino horn can fetch the U.S. street value of cocaine in Asia, where it is crushed and consumed by people who believe—wrongly, doctors say—that it can cure diseases.

It also said Vietnam's 2007 decision to legalize tiger farms on a pilot basis has "undermined" the country's efforts to police illegal trade in tiger products. Vietnam has 11 registered tiger farms.

The 35-page report comes on the heels of a controversy that erupted in May, when international wildlife experts learned that Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development had in March proposed allowing parts of tigers that die in captivity to be made into traditional medicine on a pilot basis.

Wildlife advocacy groups later said the proposal was designed to effectively legalize trade in tiger products—an accusation Vietnam denied. An official at Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung's office told the Associated Press earlier this month that Dung had rejected the proposal.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Thousands flee Indian villages as clashes kill 18

GAUHATI, India (AP)—Police say tens of thousands of villagers have fled their homes in fear of rioting that has killed at least 18 people in recent days in the remote northeast Indian state of Assam. Assam's police chief J.N. Choudhury says an additional 10 people have gone missing since clashes over land rights erupted in western Kokrajhar district between the region's ethnic Bodo community and Muslim settlers. The violence has spread to two neighboring districts. Police have discovered bodies hacked by machetes and left in the jungle or along roadsides or river banks. India has sent troops in to quell the clashes, and opened at least a half-dozen shelters for some 30,000 people, mostly women and children, who have fled their villages in search of protection.

PH rights office to investigate mass grave

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines' human rights commission says it will investigate a report by the military that it exhumed a mass grave of at least 30 suspected victims of a communist rebel purge in the 1980s. Etta Rosales, chairwoman of the Philippines' Commission on Human Rights, said Monday that her office would look into the mass grave. But she said it's too early to say whether those found in the grave in northern Quezon province were victims of a rebel purge. Army spokesman Maj. Harold Cabunoc said Sunday that soldiers unearthed at least 30 skeletal remains of people believed to have been slain by communist rebels as suspected military spies in the 1980s.

Truck accident kills 15 Filipinos on way to wake

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Fifteen people on their way to a wake for a dead clan member were killed when their speeding truck lost its brakes on a downhill road, smashed into a cement barrier and flipped over in the central Philippines, officials said Sunday. Eight other people, including the driver, were injured Saturday night when the truck rolled over twice and landed in a shallow creek in Caibiran town in Biliran province. Caibiran Mayor Eulalio Maderazo said many of the victims, including children, were hurled off the truck or crushed underneath it. Relatives traveling separately on two motorcycles saw the truck roll over and called police. "The impact was so strong some of the passengers were thrown off the truck," Maderazo said by telephone, adding that provincial officials would provide coffins and financial help to the impoverished families of the victims.

Govt probe of Japan nuke crisis criticizes TEPCO

TOKYO (AP)—A government-appointed panel investigating Japan's nuclear disaster says the operator of the crippled plant continues to drag its feet in investigations and has tried to understate the true amount of damage at the complex. A report by the panel released Monday also says a culture of complacency about nuclear safety and poor crisis management worsened the disaster. Three reactors at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant melted down following last year's massive earthquake and tsunami. The report faults the government and its main nuclear regulator, the Nuclear Industrial and Safety Agency, for promoting nuclear power as an entirely safe form of energy without being open about its inherent risks. The 450-page report by the 10-member panel of independent experts wraps up a series of investigations into the worst atomic accident since Chernobyl.

US Osprey aircraft arrive in Japan amid protests

TOKYO (AP)—A shipload of the U.S. military's latest transport aircraft arrived in Japan on Monday amid protests over safety issues that have aggravated longstanding grassroots concern over the presence of American bases in the country.

Workers began unloading and assembling the 12 MV-22 Osprey aircraft in the city of Iwakuni soon after the ship arrived. The U.S. plans to deploy the tilt-rotor aircraft to Okinawa to replace older CH-46 helicopters that are already there.

The Osprey deployment plan has become the latest rallying point for base opponents and a serious headache for officials in Tokyo and Washington hoping to calm anti-base sentiment.

Although the Ospreys will only be in Iwakuni briefly, opposition there has been unusually strong, with both the mayor and the governor saying they do not support even temporarily hosting the aircraft. Opposition to the large military presence on Okinawa is deep-rooted, and protesters on Monday held a sit-in outside the base where the Ospreys are to be sent.

Residents and local leaders in Iwakuni and on Okinawa have demanded the plan be scrapped because they say the planes are not safe. Such concerns boiled over after Osprey crashes in Morocco in April and in Florida last month.

Hundreds of protesters turned out to demonstrate against the arrival, some of them from aboard small boats.

The planes have been used extensively in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the United States says they have a solid record. The Osprey can fly like an airplane and has tilting rotors that allow it to take off and land like a helicopter. It can fly much faster and carry bigger loads than the CH-46, which it is replacing worldwide.

"Deployment of these aircraft in Japan is a vital component in fulfilling the United States' commitment to provide for the defense of Japan and to help maintain peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region," the U.S. Embassy said in a statement Monday.

The United States has about 19,000 Marines on Okinawa, which also hosts a large U.S. air base. More than half of the roughly 50,000 U.S. troops stationed throughout Japan are based on Okinawa.

To ease tensions, Tokyo and Washington recently agreed to move about 9,000 Marines off Okinawa, but that has been widely criticized on Okinawa because a firm date for the move has not been set.

Okinawans are also angry that the Ospreys will be deployed to Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, which the two countries decided to close more than a decade ago. The base has remained in operation because a replacement site hasn't been readied.

The Futenma base is located in a heavily populated area, and residents have long protested against the noise, the potential for accidents and base-related crime. A CH-53 helicopter from Futenma crashed into a nearby university building in 2004, causing a huge anti-base uproar, although there were no civilian injuries and the crew survived.

World

US pledge to rebuild Haiti not being met

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—The deadly earthquake that leveled Haiti's capital more than two years ago brought a thread of hope: a promise of renewal. With the United States taking the lead, international donors pledged billions of dollars to help the country "build back better," breaking its cycle of dependency.

But after the rubble was cleared and the dead buried, what the quake laid bare was the depth of Haiti's dysfunction. Today, the fruits of an ambitious, $1.8 billion U.S. reconstruction promise are hard to find. Immediate, basic needs for bottled water, temporary shelter and medicine were the obvious priorities. But projects fundamental to Haiti's transformation out of poverty, such as permanent housing and electric plants in the heavily hit capital of Port-au-Prince have not taken off.

Critics say the U.S. effort to reconstruct Haiti was flawed from the start. While "build back better" was a comforting notion, there wasn't much of a foundation to build upon. Haiti's chronic political instability and lack of coordinated leadership between Haiti and the U.S. meant crucial decisions about construction projects were slow to be approved. Red tape stalled those that were.

AP

In this picture taken July 7, 2012, a woman gets her hair combed by hairdressers on a street in downtown Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

The international community's $10 billion effort was also hindered by its pledge to get approval for projects from the Haitian government. For more than a year then-President Rene Preval was, as he later described it, "paralyzed," while his government was mostly obliterated, with 16,000 civil servants killed and most ministries in ruins. It wasn't until earlier this year that a fully operational government was in place to sign paperwork, adopt codes and write regulations. Other delays included challenges to contracts, underestimates of what needed to be done, and land disputes.

Until now, comprehensive details about who is receiving U.S. funds and how they are spending them have not been released. Contracts, budgets and a 300-item spreadsheet obtained by The Associated Press under a Freedom of Information Act request show:

■ Of the $988 million spent so far, a quarter went toward debt relief to unburden the hemisphere's poorest nation of repayments. But after Haiti's loans were paid off, the government began borrowing again: $657 million so far, largely for oil imports rather than development projects.

■ Less than 12 percent of the reconstruction money sent to Haiti after the earthquake has gone toward energy, shelter, ports or other infrastructure. At least a third, $329 million, went to projects that were awarded before the 2010 catastrophe and had little to do with the recovery—such as HIV/AIDS programs.

■ Half of the $1.8 billion the U.S. promised for rebuilding is still in the Treasury, its disbursement stymied by an understaffed U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince in the months after the quake and by a Haitian government that was barely functional for more than a year.

■ Despite State Department promises to keep spending public, some members of Congress and watchdogs say they aren't getting detailed information about how the millions are being spent, as dozens of contractors working for the U.S. government in Haiti leave a complex money trail.

Rogge again rules out minute silence for Israelis

LONDON (AP)—IOC President Jacques Rogge won't budge: There will be no minute's silence for the Israeli victims of the 1972 Munich massacre at the opening ceremony of the London Olympics.

Rogge rejected the latest calls Saturday for a special observance to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the murder of 11 Israeli athletes and coaches by Palestinian gunmen at the Munich Games.

"We feel that the opening ceremony is an atmosphere that is not fit to remember such a tragic incident," Rogge said.

The International Olympic Committee has come under pressure from politicians in the United States, Israel and Germany to pay tribute to the slain Israelis during Friday's ceremony.

Rogge said the IOC will honor them at a reception in London during the games on Aug. 6. He said IOC officials will also attend a ceremony in Germany on the anniversary of the attack on Sept. 5 at the military airfield of Furstenfeldbruck where most of the Israelis died.

Rogge also noted that he has attended several ceremonies with the Israeli Olympic Committee and Israeli athletes during recent games.

"We feel that we are able to give a very strong homage and remembrance for the athletes within the sphere of the national Olympic committee," he said at a news conference. "We feel that we are going to do exactly the same at the exact place of the killings at the military airport near Munich on the 5th of September, the exact date."

During the second week of the Munich Games, eight members of the Black September militant group penetrated the laxly secured Olympic Village and took Israeli team members hostage. A day later, all 11 were dead. German police killed five of the eight assassins during a failed rescue attempt and Israeli agents tracked down and killed the others.

The Israeli and German foreign ministers and the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee have urged the IOC to observe a minute's silence.

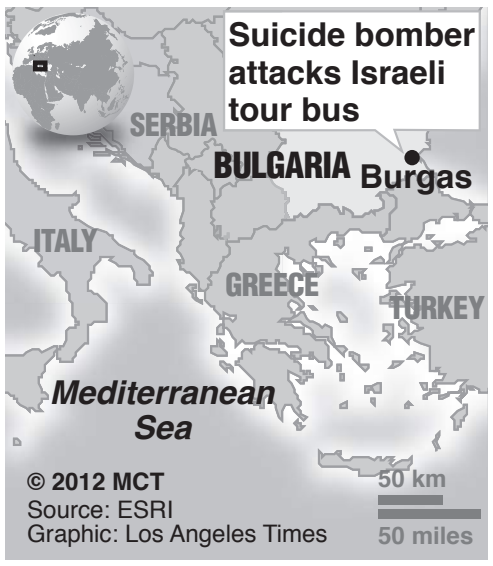
President Barack Obama also supports the campaign for a minute's silence, White House National Security Council spokesman Tommy Vietor told Yahoo News in an email Friday.

Rogge was asked whether he was swayed by Obama's view.

"We also pay big attention to recommendations coming either from the political world, or cultural world, or world of enterprise," Rogge said. "And we take then a decision taking into consideration (those recommendations). I will not say that we are necessarily following the advice, but we take it into consideration, yes."

On Sunday morning, a memorial event will be held in east London attended by London Mayor Boris Johnson and Efraim Zinger, head of Israel's Olympic committee.

On another issue related to Israel, Rogge said the IOC would investigate any athletes who pull out of competing against Israelis in London claiming they were injured. In the past, athletes from Iran have withdrawn from Olympic events that included Israelis without facing sanctions.



Indian upheaval bares Colombia's nagging conflict

TORIBIO, Colombia (AP)—One of the stiffest blows in years to the prestige of Colombia's military wasn't inflicted by its leftist rebel foes and didn't claim a single soldier's life.

It was dealt by a relatively diminutive people called the Nasa who marched furiously up to the top of a 7,500-foot (2,300-meter) peak last week and forcibly dislodged a clutch of soldiers from a strategic outpost.

These verdant, craggy mountains are the Nasa's ancestral lands, and the Nasa say they are fed up with violent usurpers. They're demanding that the country's military and its rebel foes leave their enclave in the southwestern state of Cauca.

Yet neither side in Colombia's half-century old conflict is heeding the Nasas' wishes to leave them in peace. Their homeland lies on a key corridor that rebels and their chief funding source, cocaine, regularly transit on their way to the Pacific coast.

The government alleges that some of the 115,000 Nasa are allied with rebels of the leftist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, which authorities say purchases the high-quality marijuana that many indigenous grow.

The Nasa's widely broadcast standoff with government troops has made this past week perhaps the most difficult of Juan Manuel Santos' two-year-old presidency, bringing Colombia's conflict into people's living rooms as it rarely has been in recent years and highlighting his government's inability to control large parts of the countryside. Santos even suffered the indignity of being jeered by the Nasa when he visited Toribio the previous week to announce investments in social programs.

Colombia's conflict plays out far from its sparkling cities. Its victims are its most marginalized.

"We sometimes get the impression that there's hardly any conflict at all, that it is very distant," said Jordi Raich, the International Committee of the Red Cross' country director. "But Colombia's armed conflict continues, and while it may be happening in remote areas, the humanitarian consequences are not lessened."

Al-Qaida: We're returning to old Iraq strongholds

CAIRO (AP)—The first online statement from the new leader of al-Qaida's affiliate in Iraq claims that the militant network is returning to strongholds from which it was driven by U.S. forces and their Sunni allies before the American withdrawal at the end of last year.

The al-Qaida leader claimed the militant group is preparing operations to free prisoners and assassinate court officials.

The audio identified the speaker as Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, who became head of the Islamic State of Iraq in 2010. It was posted late Saturday on a website regularly used by the militant movement to make statements.

Al-Baghdadi warned the United States that it would soon suffer militant attacks on its territory.

He also invited Muslims to come to Iraq to join his militants.

The statement comes as Sunni insurgents, now believed to be dominated by the ISI, step up attacks against Shiites, government officials and other targets, in what is seen as a bit to undercut the authority of Iraq's government and revive sectarian conflict.

"I bring you good news: We are starting a new phase in our struggle with a plan we named `Breaking the walls,' and we remind you of your priority to free the Muslim prisoners," he said.

"At the top of your priorities regarding targets is to chase and liquidate the judges, the investigators and the guards," he said.

He urged tribal leaders to send their men to join al-Qaida as it returns to areas from which it withdrew—a reference to reverses the ISI suffered at the hands of U.S. forces and allied Sunni militias in 2007 and 2008.

"I urge you to send your sons to join the ranks of the mujahideen (fighters) in defense of your religion and honor," he said. "The majority of the Sunnis in Iraq support al-Qaida and are waiting for its return."

Al-Baghdadi devoted almost half of the 33-minute speech to the uprising against the regime of Syrian President Bashar Assad, member of a Shiite offshoot sect. The rebels are largely Sunnis, and fighters from al-Qaida, including Iraqis, are believed to have taken an increasingly active role in recent months.

"Our people there have fired the coup de grace at the terror that grasped the nation (Syria) for decades ... and taught the world lessons of courage and jihad and proved that injustice could only be removed by force," he said.

Focus

A look at the lives of Colorado shooting victims

By GILLIAN FLACCUS and KRISTEN WYATT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AURORA, Colo. (AP)—A U.S. Navy veteran who served three tours of duty in the Middle East. A 6-year-old girl excited about her swimming classes. A Target employee who shielded his girlfriend and her brother with his own body. They and nine others were killed in the shooting rampage during a midnight showing of "The Dark Knight Rises" in a Denver suburb. Here are their stories:

■■■

Jonathan Blunk had high hopes for the future, with plans to re-enlist in the Navy and the goal of becoming a Navy SEAL.

The 26-year-old served three tours in the Persian Gulf and North Arabian Sea between 2004 and 2009, said close friend James Gill of Brighton, Colo.

"It was guts or glory for him," Gill told The Associated Press. "It always surprised me that he didn't serve in a situation more on the front line. He wanted to be a first responder on the front line."

Blunk was also a certified firefighter and emergency medical technician, Gill added.

He died in the shooting Friday after throwing himself in front of friend Jansen Young and saving her life, she told the NBC "Today" show. He told her to stay down.

"That's something he would do," Gill said. "If he was going to choose a way to die, that's how he wanted to go—defending someone from a (person) like that."

Blunk, a 2004 graduate of Hug High School in Reno, Nev., most recently lived in Aurora and worked for a small flooring company.

His estranged wife, Chantel Blunk, lives with their 4-year-old daughter and 2-year-old son in Reno.

■■■

Alexander J. Boik, an 18-year-old known as AJ, had a reputation for making people laugh and tried to bring back the mullet hair cut in his freshman year of high school.

"He tried to rock the mullet," said Tyler Lynch, 20, who played baseball with Boik on their high school team.

Boik, a catcher who played on the team through his junior year, had recently graduated from Gateway High School in Aurora. He also played in the school orchestra.

He was to start classes at the Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design in the fall. Gateway principal Bill Hedges said Boik planned to become an art teacher.

A friend, Jordan Crofter, described Boik as someone who "didn't hold anything back. He was just his own person."

"He was a ball of joy. He was never sad or depressed. He wanted everybody to be happy," Crofter said.

The family said in a statement that the 18-year-old was loved by all who knew him and was dating "a beautiful young lady" who was with him at the theater and survived. Crofter said Boik and his girlfriend made a "perfect couple," and people expected them to get married.

"If he were still here, he'd try to make everyone have a positive outlook of the situation and not allow it to affect their outlook of life," Crofter said.

■■■

Jesse Childress was an Air Force cyber-systems operator based at Buckley Air Force Base in Aurora.

Air Force Capt. Andrew Williams described the 29-year-old from Thornton, Colo., as knowledgeable, experienced and respectful. "We're going to miss him incredibly," he said.

Tech Sgt. Alejandro Sanchez, a co-worker, told the AP that Childress was his good friend and they were on a bowling team together.

"He would help anyone and always was great for our Air Force unit," he said.

Another co-worker, Ashley Wassinger, said Childress "was a great person fun to be with, always positive and laughing."

"Really just an amazing person, and I am so lucky to have been his friend," she said.

■■■

Gordon Cowden loved life and his family, and he had gone to the midnight movie premiere with his two teenage children.

At 51, he was the oldest of the victims killed in the shooting. He lived in Aurora, but was described as a "true Texas gentleman" in a family statement. He loved the outdoors and owned his own business.

"A quick witted world traveler with a keen sense of humor, he will be remembered for his devotion to his children and for always trying his best to do the right thing, no matter the obstacle," his family said.

His teenage children escaped the shooting unharmed.

His family declined to be interviewed in their request for privacy but expressed appreciation for words of concern offered in the wake of the shooting.

"Our hearts go out to everyone that has been harmed by this senseless tragedy," they said.

■■■

Jessica Ghawi recently wrote a blog post after surviving a shooting at a Toronto mall, saying it showed her "how fragile life was."

Friends say the 24-year-old, who moved to Colorado from Texas about a year ago, didn't let the June 2 shooting in Toronto change her outlook on life as she pursued a career in sports journalism.

"I think she even looked at that like, `Hey, even after that, I'm able to pursue my dream,'" said Peter Burns, a radio sports show host with Mile High Sports Radio in Denver, where Ghawi recently interned.

That shooting left two dead and several injured. Her blog post last month said: "I saw the victims of a senseless crime. I saw lives change.

"I was reminded that we don't know when or where our time on Earth will end. When or where we will breathe our last breath."

Former colleagues described her as ambitious and hardworking. She went by the name "Redfield," a play on her red hair, because it was easy to say and remember, both professionally and on her social media accounts.

She was a regular tweeter and her last post to the micro-blogging website stated in all capital letters, "movie doesn't start for 20 minutes."

■■■

John Larimer was a Navy sailor based at Buckley Air Force Base, where he was a cryptologic technician—a job that the Navy says on its website should be filled by someone with "exceptionally good character, above-average writing and speaking skills, a good memory, curiosity and resourcefulness."

Those who knew him described him in similar terms.

The 27-year-old and another active service member, Air Force Sgt. Jesse Childress, were killed in the shooting rampage, the military said Saturday.

AP

This undated photo provided by the family shows Jonathan T. Blunk, 26, of Aurora, Colo. with his two children.

Larimer, who grew up in the Chicago suburb of Crystal Lake, Ill., joined the service just over a year ago, the Navy said.

"A valued member of our Navy team, he will be missed by all who knew him. My heart goes out to John's family, friends and loved ones, as well as to all the victims of this horrible tragedy," said Cmdr. Jeffrey Jakuboski, his commanding officer, in a written statement.

A family member told the Daily Herald newspaper in Arlington Heights, Ill., that Larimer was the youngest of five siblings. Neighbors in his hometown recalled his sense of humor.

"We love you, John, and we will miss you always," his parents said in a statement.

■■■

As the attack in the movie theater unfolded, Matt McQuinn dove in front of his girlfriend and her older brother to shield them from the gunfire.

He died protecting them, said Rob Scott, an Ohio attorney retained by the families of McQuinn and his girlfriend, Samantha Yowler. Scott confirmed McQuinn's death to The Associated Press. He was 27.

"Unfortunately, Matt McQuinn perished from the injuries he sustained during the tragic events that unfolded in Denver, Colorado, and went home to be with his maker," Scott said in a statement. "As both families mourn the loss of Matt, they ask for everyone to give them distance and time. Again, the families thank everyone for their love, prayers and ask that we respect their families' wishes."

Yowler was recovering from surgery after she was shot in the knee at the theater. Her 32-year-old brother, Nick Yowler, who also shielded his sister, was not injured.

McQuinn and Yowler moved to Colorado from Ohio last fall. A Colorado co-worker told the Springfield News-Sun that McQuinn and Samantha Yowler worked with her at Target.

"They're really fun people. We always go out together," said Melissa Downen.

■■■

Micayla Medek loved a night out with her friends, and she was with a group of about 10 of them at the "Dark Knight Rises" premiere.

Medek was "Cayla" to her family and friends. She was 23 years old and juggling classes at Aurora Community College with a job at a Subway sandwich shop, said her aunt Jenny Zakovich, 57, of South Milwaukee, Wis.

"She didn't know what she wanted to do," Zakovich said. "I think her plans were to finish community college and go into a better paying job—probably in the computer field."

An ardent Green Bay Packers fan, Medek, who lived in the Denver suburb of Westminster, would plan her schedule around watching Packers games with her sister and father.

"It was probably just like going to church every Sunday," Zakovich said.

Zakovich said she was planning to look for tickets to a Packers game so her brother could surprise Medek and her sister.

Medek was an independent-minded and sweet girl who rarely asked her family for anything, Zakovich said.

"She was one who wouldn't hurt anybody. She was a very loving person. This shouldn't have happened to somebody like her."

■■■

The youngest of the victims killed in the attack was Veronica Moser-Sullivan.

She had just learned to swim, and at age 6, she was a "great little girl, excited about life," her great-aunt Annie Dalton said. "She should be at 6 years old."

Her mother, Ashley Moser, remains hospitalized with gunshot wounds to her neck and abdomen. She has been in and out of consciousness and asking for her daughter during moments of lucidity.

"Nobody can tell her about it," Dalton said. "She is in critical condition, but all she's asking about is her daughter."

■■■

Alex Sullivan's family called him "their real life super hero," and he was at "The Dark Knight Rises" premiere celebrating his 27th birthday and his first wedding anniversary.

"Alex was a gentle giant, known and loved by so many. He always had a glowing smile on his face and he made friends with everyone. Alex enjoyed all sorts of movies, was an avid comic book geek and loved the New York Mets," the family said in a statement.

Sullivan had a warm smile and an innocence that endeared him to people, said Shelly Fradkin, whose son Brian was good friends with Sullivan.

She sat next to a makeshift memorial Friday near the theater where an oversized birthday card with a photo of a smiling Sullivan was displayed.

"He's amazing. He was just a big teddy bear. Great hugs," she said.

She said Sullivan was such a big movie fan that he took jobs at theaters just to see movies.

Fradkin and her son spent an "excruciating" day trying to find Sullivan before learning of his death, she said.

"We're shocked. We're numb. We're sick," she said. "Our hearts are broken, and we're crushed."

■■■

Alexander C. Teves, 24, of Phoenix, earned a master's degree in counseling psychology in June from University of Denver.

He was a lovable person who made friends quickly and had a lot of them, said his grandfather, Carlo Iacovelli of Barnegat, N.J.

As a boy, Teves moved from New Jersey to Phoenix with his parents. Iacovelli and his wife wintered there and spent a lot of time with him.

"He was what you might call an ideal grandson," Iacovelli said. "He was a fun guy. He loved to eat."

Teves was planning to become a psychiatrist, his grandfather said.

"He had a lot to look forward to," Iacovelli said.

See VICTIMS on Next Page

Overdrive

Battery-powered Mitsubishi i trails rivals on range

By MARK PHELAN
DETROIT FREE PRESS

Top speed for the 2012 Mitsubishi i-MiEV is 80 mph. MCT

NUTS & BOLTS

Front-wheel drive four-door subcompact electric hatchback
Rating: Two out of four stars
Reasons to buy: Electric power, easy to park, acceleration
Shortcomings: Price, range, handling, passenger room, interior storage
Vehicle type: Front-wheel drive battery-powered electric four-passenger subcompact four-door hatchback
Power: 66-horsepower electric motor, 16kWh lithium-ion battery
Transmission: Single fixed reduction gear
Base price, base model: $29,125
Base price, test model: $31,125
Price as tested: $33,915
All prices exclude destination charges and tax incentives

The 2012 Mitsubishi i subcompact electric car falls short both as a car and as an electric vehicle (EV).

The i is a battery-powered subcompact four-door hatchback. It's based on a gasoline-powered car Mitsubishi sells in Japan. It's one of a small but growing number of EVs and plug-in hybrids.

Prices start at $29,125. All i's come with an electric motor that produces 66 horsepower and 149 pound-feet of torque, and a single-speed automatic transmission.

The SE adds 15-inch alloy wheels, fog lights and a few other features. It starts at $31,125. I tested an SE with options including a navigation system and hands-free phone compatibility. It cost $33,915. All prices exclude destination charges and federal and state tax incentives.

The i competes with cars like the Chevrolet Volt, Ford Focus electric, Honda Fit electric, Nissan Leaf and Toyota Prius plug-in hybrid.

The i costs less than most electric and plug-in hybrid cars, but it's smaller, less comfortable and has less range than most competitors. All electric vehicles face questions about their battery range and charging time, but the competitors outperform the i.

The EPA says the i's range is 62 miles on a charge. That's less than a quarter tank for most gasoline-powered cars, and less than any other EV claims. The battery is a 16 kWh lithium-ion unit that takes seven hours to charge fully with a 240-volt outlet.

The bottom line is that an i owner shouldn't figure on going more than 30 miles away—more likely 25, since most people are conservative about running out of fuel—unless there's a 240-volt charger and a place they can wait for seven hours at the end of the trip. The i's charging time is comparable with Nissan's Leaf, which has an EPA rated 73-mile range, but longer than Ford claims for its Focus EV, which has a 76-mile range.

I found the i's range to be less than 62 miles. In mixed surface and highway driving around metro Detroit, I used about 1.25 miles of charge for every mile I actually covered. The range improves when driven exclusively in stop-and-go traffic on surface streets.

Range isn't an issue if you buy an extended-range electric vehicle or plug-in hybrid. The EPA says the Chevrolet Volt can cover 38 miles on a charge before its gasoline-powered generator starts.

Total range on a battery charge and a tank of gas is 382 miles. The Toyota Prius plug-in hybrid that goes on sale shortly claims a battery range of up to 15 miles. Like the Volt, its gasoline engine takes over for longer drives.

Extended-range EVs and plug-ins—the distinction between the two is largely semantics—erase range anxiety, the fear that an EV will leave you stranded miles from home.

The i's interior looks and feels cheap, with very little storage space for glasses, phones and other items. The steering wheel neither tilts nor telescopes, something that's almost unheard of in contemporary cars.

There's plenty of room in the front seat, and the high roof affords ample head room.

Rear leg room is severely limited. There's a useful 13.4 cubic feet of storage space behind the rear seat. The voice-recognition system is not as sophisticated as those competitors offer.

The car also has a couple of design failings. The odometer and cruising range use the same gauge. That means you can't see the two most critical parameters for driving an EV—how far have I gone and how much farther can I go—at the same time.

The location of the charge port in the rear fender—it's at the front of the Volt, Focus and Leaf—makes it hard to plug into charging stations in public parking lots.

The i is extremely easy to park. It's about 30 inches shorter than the Focus, Leaf, Prius and Volt.

Acceleration is excellent, because electric motors produce plenty of torque as soon as they start.

Despite the i's shortcomings, there's something very satisfying about a high-efficiency subcompact that blows the doors off a hopped-up pickup truck revving at the stop light. The "eco" button extends the car's range, but power falls significantly.

The steering is very light. It provides little feedback, and I found the car tended to wander in its lane. The i is best suited for surface streets. It feels jittery at highway speeds.

EVs and various types of hybrids are almost certainly the way of the future. Unfortunately for Mitsubishi, there's no "i" in future.

UNDER THE HOOD

Is cheaper brake fluid as good as the higher-priced?

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Question: I want to flush the brake system and this will take several bottles of DOT 3 fluid (DOT 3 is embossed on the reservoir top). What do you think of picking a plain DOT 3 fluid by price? Or, asked another way, the SuperTech DOT 3 is the best price and is there any point in paying more for another brand? The alternatives are house brands (O'Reilly, Auto Zone, etc.) or Wagner.

Some would reply that they pay more for peace of mind. However, is the higher-priced product really better in some way? Does the Department of Transportation require that each lot be tested against the DOT 3 standards?

Answer: It's great you're interested in renewing your brake fluid. Brake fluid attracts moisture, perhaps as much as 2 percent per year, which can lead to corrosion issues and a slight chance of degraded brake performance. The complexity and cost of your antilock brake modulator certainly makes a good case for maintaining clean fluid, and should one encounter very high brake temperature, moisture in the fluid can boil (becomes compressible) which can lead to spongy braking, or worse. It's odd that domestic vehicle manufacturers typically don't specify a service interval for brake fluid, but a majority of Asian and European makers do. Most folks familiar with brake systems would like to see fluid renewed about every two to three years, regardless of how the vehicle is driven.

Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 116 specifies brake fluid properties, as well as how it's contained and labeled. Fluid manufacturers self-certify their fluid meets standards for dry boiling point, wet boiling point, viscosity, PH value, temperature and chemical stability, corrosion resistance, effects on rubber components, appearance — and more ... DOT 3 and DOT 4 are the two commonly specified brake fluid types. They are compatible, but it's best to use the one the brake system was designed for. Antilock and stability-control system equipped vehicles are particularly fussy about having correct fluid viscosity (thickness) for proper operation.

Brake fluid manufacturers have plenty of wiggle room in how they engineer their fluid as long as it meets the requirements specified by Standard 116. Some may just meet a standard while others exceed them by a wide margin. Inexpensive fluid, renewed regularly is arguably equal to or better than neglected/old high-price fluid. Other standards you might look for when comparing fluid are SAE J1703, ISO 4925, and JIS K2233. My personal choice for moderately priced fluid is Castrol's GT LMA brake fluid (meets/exceeds all of the above). Brake fluid doesn't store well in plastic bottles (moisture intrusion), don't buy it by the gallon and store the leftover! Check out www.aa1car.com/library/bfluid.htm for a great article on brake fluid replacement and testing.

You didn't mention the brand/model of vehicle this is or how you plan to renew the fluid. Bleeding/flushing procedures can vary widely due to the workings of the ABS system. In many cases a simple vacuum bleeder can be used to draw new fluid throughout the system to each wheel's caliper/cylinder, but a pro-grade scan tool may be needed to command ABS solenoids to purge old fluid from the brake modulator or to enable a path for front or rear bleeding/flushing. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's recommended procedure and observe safety precautions.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

VICTIMS

From Page 17

■■■

While officiating the wedding ceremony for her two friends in 2010, Rebecca Wingo shed tears of happiness.

She had played a role in the two meeting each other, having taken her pal Cody Shafer out on the town the night he would meet his partner, Marq. So when the two men planned their nuptials, they knew Wingo had to be a part of it.

"That I'll have forever," he said. "Her laughter and then breaking down in the middle of our ceremony and crying."

Shafer and Wingo met in 2009 in an accounting class at a community college. Both single, recently out of the Air Force and new to town, they became fast friends.

"I don't think Rebecca ever met a stranger," Shafer said. "Her smile would just light up a room."

Wingo had started a job several months ago as a customer relations representative at a mobile medical imaging company.

Shafer said the 32-year-old was a hard-working single mother, balancing the raising of her two daughters with school and work.

"If she put her mind to something she was going to get it done," he said. "What an example she set for her little girls."

Life & Style

Sheriff: Katherine Jackson is safe, with family

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Authorities in Los Angeles say they have located Katherine Jackson and that she is safe and with a family member.

Los Angeles Sheriff's Deputy Mark Pope says investigators continue to speak with Jackson's relatives and gather more information about her whereabouts.

A relative reported the Jackson family matriarch missing on Saturday night, but her son Jermaine said Sunday evening she was with her sister Rebbie in Arizona.

Pope says he does not have details on her exact whereabouts and that investigators are working on the case.

Jermaine Jackson wrote in a statement that his mother was following doctor's orders to rest and stay away from the phone.

Katherine Jackson is the guardian of the children of her late son Michael and had not spoken with them in a week.

THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. Check back soon for further information. AP's earlier story is below.

Authorities said Sunday they believe Katherine Jackson, the mother of Michael Jackson and the guardian of his three minor children, is safe in Arizona with family members after she was reported missing.

The disclosure came after another concerned family member officially reported her missing Saturday night amid a dispute over the estate of her superstar son.

A person familiar with Katherine Jackson's whereabouts said she is with her daughter Rebbie in Arizona and following a doctor's orders to rest. The person was not authorized to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The 82-year-old Jackson family matriarch was reported missing by a relative on Saturday night. Sheriff's officials later said they believe she is in Arizona with a relative, but they were still trying to establish contact with her.

Katherine Jackson's whereabouts caused concern for some family members in recent days, and her granddaughter Paris Jackson issued a frantic plea on Twitter early Sunday.

"I haven't spoken with her in a week I want her home now," she posted from her Twitter account. She also tweeted a number for people to contact in case they saw her grandmother.

Katherine Jackson also hadn't been in contact with her attorneys, who worked Sunday to learn more information about her whereabouts and why she had suddenly become incommunicado, including with her grandchildren.

"First of all, let's hope that this is all just a big misunderstanding and a totally benign situation," her attorney Perry Sanders Jr. said Sunday. "Assuming that she did actually leave on doctor's orders, no matter which doctor, it has certainly created an absolutely irregular situation whereby she has been out of contact with her grandchildren."

The mystery of Katherine Jackson's whereabouts was compounded by a recent visit from her son's former physician, Dr. Allan Metzger, who examined her July 14 after being brought to her home in Calabasas by someone close to the family, said Katherine Jackson's attorney Sandy Ribera.

The visit came one day before Katherine Jackson was scheduled to depart on an RV trip to the Southwest to watch her sons perform at concerts. The elder Jackson never made any of the shows and Metzger apparently told her not to take the trip, Ribera said.

Metzger is not Katherine Jackson's primary physician and her regular doctor wasn't aware of his house call until concerns about Katherine Jackson's whereabouts were raised, Ribera said.

A phone message left for Metzger at his Beverly Hills practice was not immediately returned Sunday.

Metzger treated Michael Jackson earlier in his career and met with the singer once in the months before he died. Defense attorneys for the physician convicted of killing the pop superstar called him as a witness to try to show the singer was attempting to obtain a powerful anesthetic for home use.

Despite being a defense witness, Metzger aided prosecutors by telling jurors that he refused Jackson's request and warned him of the risks.

Paris Jackson referenced Metzger's visit in a tweet early Sunday, writing, "the same doctor that testified on behalf of dr murray saying my father was a drug addict (a lie) is caring for my grandmother... just saying."

AP

In this Monday, Feb. 28, 2005 file photo, Michael Jackson follows his mother, Katherine Jackson, as they arrive for court on the opening day of his child molestation trial at Santa Barbara County Superior Court in Santa Maria, Calif.

Chief Joseph war shirt fetches $877,500 at auction

RENO, Nev. (AP)—A war shirt worn by Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce tribe that can be seen in a painting hanging in the Smithsonian Institution sold Saturday for $877,500 at auction, organizers said.

Mike Overby, an organizer of the annual Coeur d'Alene Art Auction, said the shirt that sold in Reno is considered to be one of the most important Native American artifacts to ever come to auction. It had been expected to bring from $800,000 to $1.2 million at auction, he said.

"Anything associated with Chief Joseph is highly desirable, and that's a pretty special shirt," he told The Associated Press.

Chief Joseph wore the shirt in 1877 in the earliest known photo of him, and again while posing for a portrait by Cyrenius Hall in 1878. That painting, which was used for a U.S. postage stamp, hangs in the Smithsonian.

The poncho-style war shirt was made of two soft skins, likely deerskin. It features beadwork with bold geometric designs and bright colors. Warriors kept such prestigious garments clean in a saddle bag on their horse or carefully stored while in camp, to be worn only on special occasions, American Indian scholar Theodore Brasser noted.

The shirt surfaced at an Indian relic show in the 1990s and was sold without any knowledge of its link to the photo and portrait. It changed hands again before the connection was discovered.

AP

This photo released by the Coeur D'Alene Art Auction shows a war shirt worn by Chief Joseph of Nez Perce tribe that sold for $877,500 at auction.

Its quality makes it desirable for collectors, but it's the "surprising discovery of the shirt's role in history that reveals its true importance," said Brasser, a former curator of the National Museum of Ethnology in Leiden, Netherlands, and at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Ottawa.

The photo and portrait showing the war shirt were made shortly after Chief Joseph led 750 Nez Perce tribal members on an epic 1,700-mile journey from Oregon to Montana in an unsuccessful bid to reach Canada and avoid being confined to a reservation. They were forced to surrender in 1877 after U.S. troops stopped them about 40 miles south of the Canadian border.

In a famous speech made after the surrender, Chief Joseph said: "From where the sun now stands, I will fight no more forever."

The shirt's sale involved private collectors. "It was a wildcard piece. We're real happy where it ended up," Overby said.

Despite its price, it was not the top-selling piece at the auction. The painting "Scout's Report," by Howard Terpning, went for $994,500, followed by $965,250 for "Cowboys Roping the Bear" by Frank Tenny Johnson.

Some 400 bidders took part in what's billed as the world's largest Western art sale. About 300 works were sold for a total of $17.2 million, up from $16.9 million last year and $9.2 million the year before.

Death & Funeral Announcement

JOAQUINA SANTOS AGUON

Lovingly known as "Kinai"
Born to life on June 08, 1951
Passed away in the grace of our Lord on July 19, 2012

In Her New Life, She Now Joins Her:
Mother: Maria Hocog Santos Deleon Guerrero
Father: Jose Atalig Deleon Guerrero, Jesus K. Ilo
Brother & Sisters: Serafin H. Santos, Dolores H. Santos, Georgia I. Mallens
Parents In-Law: Antonio Mafnas Aguon & Rosa Delos Santos Aguon
Brother and Sister In-Law: Juan S. Aguon, Julia & Jose A. Cepeda, Teresa R. Aguon
Reared Parents: Ignacio P./ Chana S. Agulto
Uncles & Aunties: Pedro/Rita Santos & Francisco/Innocencia Santos
Great Granddaughter: Angel Franette A. Faisao

Her Memories Will Forever Live In The Hearts of Her:
Husband: Joaquin Delos Santos Aguon
Children/Spouse: Alan Aguon and Children (Grand Children), **Antoniette** Aguon & Jen Sablan and Children (Grand Children), **Joaquin** Aguon Jr., **Tricia** Aguon & Loleng Falig and Children (Grand Children), **Edwin** Aguon & Nadine Aquino and Children, **Lana**/George Eperiam and Children, **Vincent**/Thesia Aguon and Children, **Joshua** Aguon & Margo Aldan

Uncle: Mariano/Isabel Santos and family

Brothers & Sisters: Jose Santos and Children, †Georgia Malens and Children, Elphidia Kosam and Children, Lorenza/†Likiak Monkeya and Children, Rita Fitipol and Children, Carmen Fitipol and Children

Brothers & Sisters In-Law: Mr & Mrs. Santiago S. Aguon and Children, Mr. & Mrs. Jose S. Aguon and Children, Mrs. Consolacion A. Tudela and Children, Mr. & Mrs. Ramon S. Aguon and Children, Mr. & Mrs. Dorotheo S. Aguon and Children, Mr. & Mrs. Juan S. Aguon and Children, Mr. & Mrs. Jose/Julia A. Cepeda and Children

She is also survived by and will be missed by her numerous Reared Children, In-Laws, Godchildren, Nieces, Nephews and friends.

Daily Mass is being offered at 6:00 A.M., Rosary at 7:00 P.M. at Mt. Carmel Cathedral.

On Friday, July 27, 2012 her remains will leave CHC Morgue at 7:30 A.M. and will be escorted to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 A.M. followed immediately by interment services at Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Please Join us in prayers.
Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Joaquin S. Aguon, Children and Families

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The Dark Knight Rises

Friday and Saturday	12:45	3:55	7:00	10:05
Sunday thru Thursday	12:45	3:55	7:00	

Christian Bale, Michael Caine, Anne Hathaway
Crime, Action • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Christopher Nolan's Batman franchise continues with this Warner Bros. release, the third in the series. The story will pick up after the events of The Dark Knight, with Christian Bale returning as the Caped Crusader—this time pitted against the deadly Bane (Tom Hardy) and Selina Kyle, aka Catwoman (Anne Hathaway). Nolan directs from a script he co-wrote with his brother, Jonathan, working off the story by David Goyer. Joseph Gordon-Levitt co-stars.

The Dark Knight Rises

Friday and Saturday	12:55	4:05	7:10	10:15
Sunday thru Thursday	12:55	4:05	7:10	

Christian Bale, Michael Caine, Anne Hathaway
Crime, Action • Rated PG 13

★ ★ ★

Ice Age 4: Continental Drift

Friday and Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:30
Sunday thru Thursday	1:15	4:15	7:15	

Ray Romano, John Leguizamo
Children's/family • Rated PG

Synopsis

The Ice Age franchise continues with this 3D entry in the highly successful series. Ray Romano, John Leguizamo, Queen Latifah, Denis Leary, Seann William Scott, and Josh Peck reprise their roles, with Jeremy Renner, Jennifer Lopez, and Aziz Ansari heading up the rest of the voice cast.

Savages

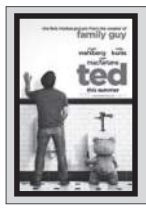
Friday and Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:20	10:10
Sunday thru Thursday	1:00	4:00	7:20	

Taylor Kitsch, Salma Hayek
Crime • Rated R

The Amazing Spider-Man

Friday and Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:05	9:55
Sunday thru Thursday	1:10	4:10	7:05	

Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone
Action, Fantasy, Drama • Rated PG 13



Ted

Friday and Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:50
Sunday thru Thursday	1:25	4:25	7:25	

Mark Wahlberg, Mila Kunis
Comedy • Rated R

Brave

Friday and Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	10:00
Sunday thru Thursday	1:30	4:30	7:30	

Kelly MacDonald, Emma Thompson
Children's/family • Rated PG

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Soul Asylum, from left, Tommy Stinson, Dave Pirner and Dan Murphy perform in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in October 2005.
JEFF WHEELER/MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE/MCT

Soul Asylum drops first disc in six years

By CHRIS RIEMENSCHNEIDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

MINNEAPOLIS—Due at the airport in three hours for a gig in Washington, D.C., Soul Asylum guitarist Dan Murphy wanted to make sure his bandmate of 31 years, singer Dave Pirner, did not get lost finding the coffee shop arranged for our interview last month. It was in Uptown Minneapolis, about a half-mile from Pirner's house.

"Let me check on Sunshine," Murphy said, picking up his cell. He chuckled as he hung up.

"He told me he's parking 'right by Knut Koupee guitar shop.' I didn't bother telling him that Knut Koupee closed in about 1984."

OK, so Soul Asylum is not exactly in step with the times. Some other solid reminders of how long ago the band's commercial heyday was: They played the Clinton inauguration party (the first one); taped an "MTV Unplugged" episode (same season as Nirvana's) and were featured on the soundtrack to "Reality Bites" (in which Pirner made a cameo with then-girlfriend Winona Ryder).

As Pirner and Murphy this week release their first album together in six years—made with the stalwart replacement lineup of drummer Michael Bland (ex-Prince) and bassist Tommy Stinson (ex-Replacements)—certain things are being done to update their old band's image. For instance, they're pitching for NPR radio play and taping an on-air session with Minnesota Public Radio, which has their new single, "Gravity," in steady rotation. They even have a Twitter account, though a mention of it drew a blank, talking-in-Greek look from Pirner.

Of all of Soul Asylum's 10 full-lengths, this one boasts a little of everything the band has done since its inception. Punky and slightly snotty garage-stormers such as "Let's All Kill Each Other" and "The Streets" bump greasy elbows with the anthemic, radio-tuned rockers "Gravity" and "Into the Light." The album also meanders into mellower territory with the Faces-like soul-twang gem "By the Way" and a charming jazz-piano ditty, "Cruel Intentions."

Pirner wrote all the tunes but credited his bandmates for setting a high standard. He thus also blamed them for "Delayed's" delay.

"There are the guys I call 'The Royal They,' which is Danny and Michael," the singer explained with a smirk. "I just write songs and keep writing songs until I write some that Danny and Michael like. That's really what takes so long. If those guys are not into a song full-heartedly, it's going to seep out on stage, so it has to be good."

The other reason for the album's slow gestation was geographic challenges. Only Bland lives in the Twin Cities year-round. Pirner lives mostly in New Orleans. Murphy winters near Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Stinson moved from Los Angeles to upstate New York during the making of the record and eventually had to bow out of Soul Asylum altogether, mainly because of his commitment to Guns N' Roses. The permanent new bassist, Winston Roye, from New Jersey, makes his local debut this week. Most of their touring consists of "fly-in" weekend dates, so they often just meet up at gigs.

Pirner still retains his Minneapolis house—"I'll always feel like I'm a part of something here," he said—but he emphasized how much of an impression his adopted hometown has had on him. Some of the nihilistic, reckless, devil-may-care lyrics in "Let's All Kill Each Other" and the new album's closer, "I Should've Stayed in Bed," sound NOLA-induced (i.e., "There's nothing I gotta do today except for blow you off").

"After everything that's been lost and done to New Orleans, people there are still fully committed to making art and leading an artistic and spiritual life," he said. "It gets left behind in terms of business and money, but it still leads the way, I think, in art and creativity."

There seems to be a similar, unfettered credo to Soul Asylum, which has watched its riches fade and its members come and go—or get buried—but lo and behold, the band still carries that spark. As Pirner bluntly put it: "The notion of giving up at this point of Soul Asylum's career is just kind of ridiculous."

'Dark Knight Rises' reportedly earns $160M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Dark Knight Rises" was on track to earn $160 million, which would be a record for 2-D films, over the weekend following a mass shooting at a Colorado screening of the Batman film.

Citing box office insiders, The Hollywood Reporter, Los Angeles Times, New York Times and other media outlets reported Sunday that the latest Batman sequel earned $160 million to $162 million.

That amount would best the $158.4 million debut of "The Dark Knight" in 2008 and give "Dark Knight Rises" the third-highest domestic weekend opening ever, after the 3-D films "The Avengers" with $207.4 million and "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows—Part 2" with $169.2 million.

The Hollywood Reporter also cited box office sources who said "Dark Knight Rises" earned $70 million from nine of the 17 countries where it debuted over the weekend, including the United Kingdom, Australia, South Korea and Spain.

Tickets for 3-D films cost a few more dollars than 2-D screenings, netting extra cash at the box office. Movies released in 3-D typically earn under half of their income in 3-D screenings, sometimes as little as a third.

Sony, Fox, Disney, Paramount, Universal and Lionsgate joined "Dark Knight Rises" distributor Warner Bros in publicly withholding their usual revenue reports out of respect for the victims of the deadly shooting early Friday and their families.

Box-office tracking service Rentrak also did not report figures following the Aurora, Colo., shootings that killed 12 and injured 58 at a midnight screening of the new Batman sequel on Friday.

"This tragedy did not seem to impact the box office in a major way," said Paul Dergarabedian, an analyst for Hollywood.com who specializes in box office. "For this film to still be in the rarified air of the top-three openings of all time is phenomenal, given the unfortunate circumstances surrounding the release of this film."

Dergarabedian noted that the box-office ranking of director Christopher Nolan's final installment of his Batman trilogy would not be official until Warner Bros. and other studios release their final weekend box-office tallies Monday.

Anne Hathaway, who plays Catwoman in the film, became the third member of "The Dark Knight Rises" cast and crew to express her condolences after arriving home in the United States from Paris, where Warner Bros. quickly canceled a premiere Friday night.

"My heart aches and breaks for the lives taken and altered by this unfathomable senseless act," the actress said in a statement. "I am at a loss for words how to express my sorrow. My thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families."

'Twilight' saga's Teen Choice wins total 41

AP
Taylor Swift accepts the award for best female artist onstage at the Teen Choice Awards on Sunday, July 22, 2012, in Universal City, Calif.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Twilight Saga" will need a bigger garage.

It was announced at Sunday's Teen Choice Awards that the supernatural film series has won 41 surfboard-shaped trophies since it launched in 2008, including awards earned this year for the penultimate installment, "Breaking Dawn—Part 1."

"Twilight" stars Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson and Taylor Lautner picked up this year's batch of boards, as well as the ultimate choice award, the show's version of a lifetime achievement award.

Stewart was honored as the choice romance movie actress and as choice female summer movie star for "Snow White & the Huntsman." Other multiple winners included "The Hunger Games," Emma Stone, "The Vampire Diaries," Justin Bieber, and Taylor Swift.

Host Demi Lovato says 134 million votes were cast for the 14th annual awards.

Olympic flame takes a ride on the London Eye

AP
In this photo provided by LOCOG, Amelia Hempleman-Adams poses with the Olympic Flame on top of a London Eye pod on the Torch Relay leg through London, Sunday July 22, 2012.

LONDON (AP)—The Olympic flame has had a ride on the London Eye.

Amelia Hempleman-Adams took the torch on a trip on the giant observation wheel on the south side of the River Thames on Sunday, riding atop one of the Eye's viewing capsules as it slowing rotated.

The 17-year-old Hempleman-Adams was the youngest person to ski to the South Pole last year.

The Olympic flame is continuing its weeklong journey around London, after spending more than 60 days touring Britain.

Organizers want the flame—and the spirit of the games—to reach as many neighborhoods as possible in the 8,000-mile (12,875 kilometers) torch relay.

Champion athletes, children, soldiers and people from all walks of life have taken turns carrying the flame. On Saturday, the torchbearers included legendary Romanian gymnast Nadia Comaneci and English singer Paloma Faith, who ran with the torch in eye-catching red high heels.

The relay will end Friday, when the last torchbearer lights the cauldron at the opening ceremony in the Olympic Stadium to mark the official start of the games.

Celebrities descending on London for Olympic bashes

LONDON (AP)—The athletes and the Olympic torch have arrived in London—and so has the party.

For those keener on celebrity-spotting or dancing the night away than medal counting, the British host city has plenty of action to offer during games time. Away from the track and field, Hollywood royalty such as Brangelina and Nicole Kidman will be rubbing shoulders with diplomats and businessmen at the city's glitziest clubs and grandest historic buildings. Meanwhile, Dizzy Rascal, Snow Patrol and other musicians will keep crowds entertained at outdoor concerts across the capital—though there won't be cocktails and canapes.

The party vibe kicks off Saturday with the sold-out "River of Music" festival, which features six stages along the Thames, each named for a different continent. Musicians from the Americas, for example, are taking over London's iconic Tower of London, headlined by a gig by the Scissor Sisters. Other performers from across the globe include Baaba Maal, Wynton Marsalis and the Kronos Quartet.

One of the most glamorous bashes in town will be a charity gala dinner at the Victoria & Albert Museum on Wednesday, two days before the Olympic opening ceremony. Angelina Jolie, Brad Pitt, Christopher Lee and Bob Geldof are expected to attend the black-tie event, which is organized by the charity Sports for Peace and held in honor of boxing great Muhammad Ali.

Others reportedly attending include Michael Douglas, Catherine Zeta-Jones, and Prince Harry. The organizers did not immediately confirm the reports, but judging from the list of celebs sitting on the charity's committee—George Clooney, Catherine Deneuve and Hilary Swank, to name a few—there will definitely be no shortage of VIPs.

In Soho, London's buzzing restaurant and nightlife district, luxury watchmaker Omega, the Olympics' official time-keeper, will be hosting its own A-list soirees in a specially-refurbished townhouse until the end of the games on Aug 12. Kidman is expected at a launch party on July 28, while a space-themed bash on Aug. 2 will feature American astronauts Buzz Aldrin, Gene Cernan and Tom Stafford. A publicist said other guests will include swimmer Michael Phelps and Bollywood star Abhishek Bachchan.

Other celebrities will make appearances during the games—but only on video. "Harry Potter" stars Daniel Radcliffe and Emma Watson, actress Helen Mirren and boxing star Amir Khan are among those who recorded a "goodbye" video that will be played on screens as fans leave the Olympic venues at the end of each sports session.

It's not just the celebrities who know how to party.

The Russians are planning to bring Moscow nightlife to a VIP pavilion in Kensington Gardens, which for the duration of the Olympics will be home to all things Russian. Not on the guest list? "Russia Park," as it is called, will be free to enter during the day, and the public can enjoy the country's food, music, or have a go at ice curling.

Dozens of other countries will set up their own "national hospitality houses" across London, and several are open to the public. Casa Brasil at Somerset House will showcase Brazilian culture and sport—and promote Rio's hosting of the 2016 Summer Games. Beer lovers should focus on the German House's party held on the cruise liner MS Deutschland, the Irish House at a pub at King's Cross, and the Netherlands' "Heineken House" at north London's Alexandra Palace.

The Olympic opening and closing ceremonies will also be focal points for celebration in London. On the night before the opening ceremony, a concert at Hyde Park will mark the arrival of the Olympic torch with performances by Dizzee Rascal, The Wanted and DJ Mark Ronson. The park will continue to host outdoor concerts throughout the games, with Snow Patrol and Stereophonics headlining on July 27, and Amy Macdonald and Alyssa Reid among the scheduled performers in following days.

Adoption was the right thing to do for pregnant teen mom

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I was glad to see the letter you printed from "Fine With My Decision" (April 22). I placed a baby boy for adoption when I was 16. My parents were bitterly disappointed and sent me out of state. But despite my somewhat immature and rebellious nature, I was—and remain—glad my parents made me do the right thing.

In the years since, there has been a trend toward "open adoptions" and emotional reunions between birth mothers and adoptees who were separated under the "closed system." I think open adoption is probably healthier for everyone except in cases of rape, incest or abuse/neglect.

If the child I gave birth to were to come looking for me, I feel that's his right and I wouldn't turn him away. But I have never felt a desire to look for him. His birth was not a happy event in my life, and I don't care to revisit that chapter. I don't regard him as my son. The people who raised him are his parents, not the green kid who got herself in trouble.

I'm somewhat younger than the girls who gave up babies from the 1940s to 1960s, so I didn't get the "keep it a deep dark secret" advice. I also don't feel I was unfairly coerced. I was 16 and couldn't support a child. When I think of how my life would have been if I'd kept him, I'm sure I did the right thing.

Thanks for writing, "Fine With My Decision." You've got company in me, and I'm sure there are plenty more of us out there.

FINE WITH MY DECISION, TOO

DEAR FINE TOO: Your letter expresses the sentiments of many women who responded, as I knew they would. Their comments:

DEAR ABBY: I gave up my daughter when I was 20. I have thought about her many times, but have no other feelings than hoping she's OK. I gave her up because I knew I wasn't ready for motherhood. I never married and have no other children.

I have enjoyed my life. I wish my daughter, wherever she is, the best, and I hope her life has been great. I'd love to meet her someday, to be sure she's all right, but if it never happens, that's OK, too.

Some people are born without that "mother" instinct, and it's best they not have children they really don't want. Too many people become parents because they think it's the thing to do, and the children suffer.

SINGLE AND HAPPY

DEAR ABBY: I'm an adoptee and while our situations are not the same, I can assure the woman who wrote you that she's not a "freak." I applaud her honesty about her feelings and appreciate her willingness to give her child the chance to connect with biological relatives who do want a relationship. The support groups she has encountered exist because people who regret their decisions need support. It's not likely there would be groups for people who don't feel that sense of regret.

In my case, I was conceived because my birth parents wanted to make money. They were ahead of their time, shall we say, in terms of surrogate parenthood. I wish I could have met them, but both died long before I began my search.

Achieving adulthood for me was the realization that no matter how we start out, in the long run, our lives are our responsibility. I hope "Fine" stops beating herself up and uses that energy to nurture the relationships she does have, including the one she has with herself.

REV. J. IN NEW YORK

DEAR READERS: For a longer version of this column, go to DearAbby.com.

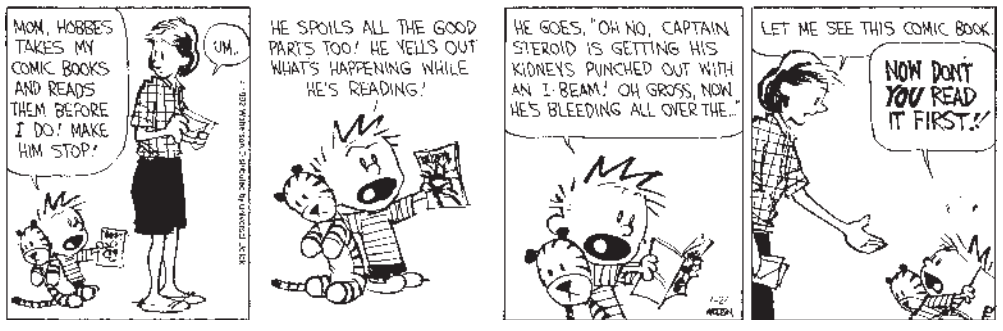
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

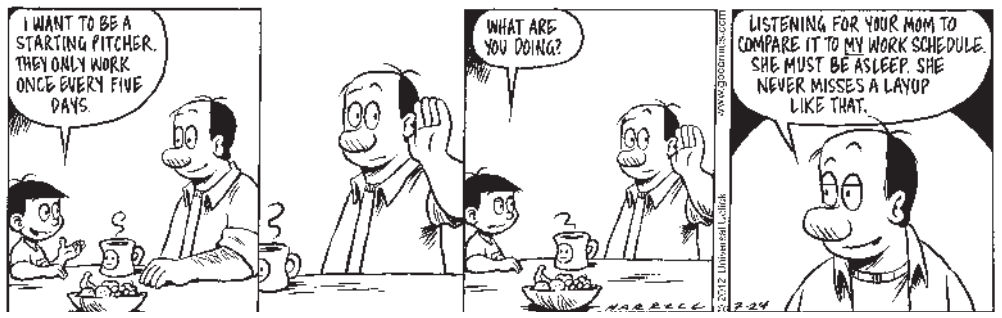

MOM, HOBBES TAKES MY COMIC BOOKS AND READS THEM BEFORE I DO! MAKE HIM STOP!
UM..
HE SPOILS ALL THE GOOD PARTS TOO! HE YELLS OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING WHILE HE'S READING!
HE GOES, "OH NO, CAPTAIN STEROID IS GETTING HIS KIDNEYS PUNCHED OUT WITH AN I-BEAM! OH GROSS, NOW HE'S BLEEDING ALL OVER THE..."
LET ME SEE THIS COMIC BOOK.
NOW DON'T YOU READ IT FIRST!!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

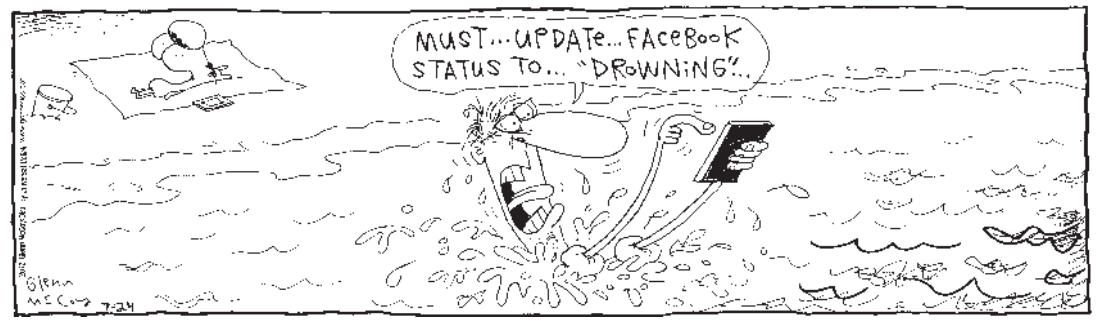
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I WANT TO BE A STARTING PITCHER. THEY ONLY WORK ONCE EVERY FIVE DAYS.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
LISTENING FOR YOUR MOM TO COMPARE IT TO MY WORK SCHEDULE. SHE MUST BE ASLEEP. SHE NEVER MISSES A LAYUP LIKE THAT.
7-24

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

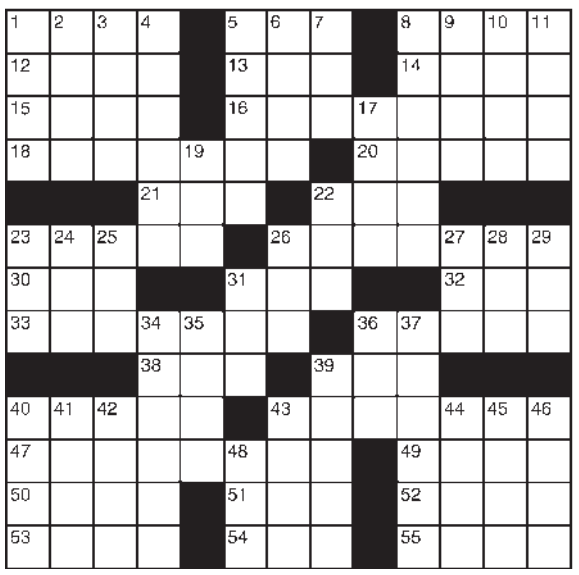
ACROSS
1 Highway division
5 Lamb's mama
8 Take to the pool
12 Press
13 Atlas page
14 Windy day toy
15 Uncategorized (Abbr.)
16 Pete Fountain's instrument
18 Rifle attachment
20 Minuscule bits
21 Regret
22 Big Apple letters
23 Bedding material
26 Stocking style
30 Exist
31 Office machine
32 Hockey legend Bobby
33 Presidential advisors
36 English composition
38 Fresh
39 See 37-Down
40 Ottoman officer
43 Tiara's relative
47 Surfing mecca?
49 — and kin
50 Take the show on the road
51 Praise in verse
52 Birthright barterer
53 Heche or Hathaway
54 Solidify
55 Univ. paper

DOWN
1 Big branch
2 Operatic solo
3 Inquisitive
4 "Keep singing!"
5 Host
6 Poet Whitman
7 Eco-friendly govt. agency
8 Bandleader Henderson
9 Drunkard
10 Particular
11 Citi Field team
17 Beams
19 Sister
22 Put the kibosh on
23 Varnish ingredient
24 401(k) alternative
25 Kan. neighbor
26 Obese
27 Ph. bk. data
28 Geological period
29 Attempt
31 Not many
34 Belong naturally
35 Approach
36 Listener
37 With 39-Across, holiday entree
39 "Monopoly" buy
40 Pocket bread
41 Any time now
42 Dazzle
43 Relinquish
44 Unless, in law
45 Greek vowels
46 So
48 Yule quaff

Solution time: 21 mins.

B	O	L	T		M	E	T		D	O	T	H	
E	R	I	E		O	R	E		E	U	R	O	
A	S	E	A		M	A	N	D	A	T	E	S	
M	O	U	S	S	E		T	O	F	F	E	E	
			E	O	N	S		E	E	R			
M	I	G	R	A	T	F	S		N	O	R	M	
P	I	E		K	U	N	I	S		N	O	R	
H	I	T	S		M	A	G	N	A	T	E	S	
			R	A	T		T	H	O	R			
A	B	I	D	E	S		T	W	O	B	I	T	
M	E	D	I	A	T	E	S		U	R	S	A	
A	M	O	S		O	W	E		N	A	I	L	
D	E	F	T		W	E	E		D	E	S	K	

Yesterday's answer 7-24



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Elisabeth Moss, 30; Anna Paquin, 30; Jennifer Lopez, 43; Kristin Chenoweth, 44.

Happy Birthday: Reach for the stars. Don't let anyone coerce or bully you into anything you don't want to do. The sky is the limit; all you have to do is concentrate on the result you want and head in that direction. Love, money and career decisions will highlight your year and lead to interesting times. Your numbers are 3, 11, 18, 27, 31, 34, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Slow down, take your time and don't feel pressured to make a decision. Expect to face opposition that requires hands-on guidance and explanations to overcome. You will gain ground by being humble, gracious and attentive. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Do whatever it takes to impress your peers. Honesty, integrity, understanding and patience with indecisive people will be your ticket to success. Your guidance and your actions will help set a standard for what's to come. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You've got nothing to lose and everything to gain by taking action and following through with your plans. Let your imagination take over, and you will drum up the support you require to reach your goals. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Expect opposition, and find a way to maneuver through troubled waters. Rely on the people you trust to help you find the right solution to underlying problems. Take care of a burden quickly and move on to more pleasurable activities. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Travel for pleasure or knowledge. Get together with friends and share your thoughts, skills and services with those who have something to contribute. Talks will lead to new ideas, and plans will be put into play. Relationships will flourish. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't allow interference to get you down or stop you from reaching your goals. Stand tall and take action. Keep your thoughts and plans a secret until you are fully prepared to disclose pursuits that are already underway. Focus on work and getting ahead. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You are powerful. Put your plans into motion, and don't be afraid to take a different approach in order to get a better result. Believing in your abilities, skills and experience will help you seal a deal. Romance should be scheduled. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't let anyone sidetrack you with uncalled for comments or last-minute changes. Focus on creative projects. Remain in places you find tranquil and geared toward personal accomplishment. Say little; produce a lot. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Share ideas and engage in projects, activities or events that will contribute to greater development of the things you most want to pursue. Teamwork will pay off and lead to an interesting proposal. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Criticism will be destructive, whether it's directed at you or coming from you. Negativity will restrict you from describing your vision or seeing what others are trying to accomplish. Open up to the possibilities and bypass being held back. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Concentrate on productivity. Take on high-energy projects and do whatever it takes to alter your home and lifestyle to suit your needs. Love and romance are highlighted, enhancing your life and easing your stress. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): There will be plenty to consider before you jump into a situation that has the potential to backfire. Make sure both you and the other parties involved have good intentions, focusing on being just and fair. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are entertaining and charming, a team player and a good helper.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

							5	
		1		8	4			9
	3		5		6			
		3		7		8	4	
	6		1	4	3		9	
	4	9		2		3		
			3		8		1	
5			7	6		9		
	9							

Difficulty Level ★★ 7/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	7	4	3	5	6	8	9	1
8	9	3	1	4	2	5	6	7
5	1	6	7	8	9	3	2	4
4	6	5	8	7	3	9	1	2
7	3	1	9	2	4	6	5	8
9	8	2	6	1	5	7	4	3
1	5	8	2	6	7	4	3	9
3	4	7	5	9	1	2	8	6
6	2	9	4	3	8	1	7	5

Difficulty Level ★ 7/23

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

NEUROPLASTICITY Solution: 7 letters

C	P	A	L	A	R	E	J	U	V	E	N	A	T	E
N	E	A	U	C	N	O	I	T	C	N	U	F	R	S
L	E	R	T	D	O	Ⓜ	R	O	F	N	I	O	C	M
H	A	T	E	T	I	R	Ⓞ	E	R	H	T	I	E	G
L	L	C	W	B	E	T	T	Ⓥ	S	S	E	M	R	V
M	Y	E	I	O	E	R	O	I	Ⓔ	N	O	O	E	P
O	A	T	A	D	R	L	N	R	C	R	W	D	A	E
K	A	P	I	R	E	K	L	E	Y	A	U	I	C	R
E	Y	X	P	L	N	M	S	U	U	R	L	F	T	C
V	D	T	O	I	I	I	E	N	M	R	U	Y	I	E
A	U	S	C	N	N	G	N	N	I	B	O	J	O	P
H	T	A	P	E	A	G	A	G	D	A	R	N	N	T
E	S	U	R	M	T	U	N	I	N	G	R	A	S	I
B	T	V	A	T	R	E	A	T	M	E	N	T	I	O
S	E	D	C	O	O	R	D	I	N	A	T	I	O	N

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Agility, Auditory, Aural, Axon, Behave, Brain, Cerebellum, Coordination, Cortical, Damage, Detect, Form, Function, Grow, Heal, Injury, Inputs, Learning, Mapping, Medical, Memory, Mend, Modify, Move, Nerve, Networks, Neurons, Path, Pattern, Perception, Reaction, Rejuvenate, Restore, Science, Shift, Study, Train, Treatment, Tuning, Tweak

Yesterday's Answer: Performing

THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 24: Celebrate 24 All-Time Favorite Puzzles! Perfect-bound paperback makes a great gift for puzzle lovers of all ages! Order by phone, 1-800-642-6479. Or order online at amuzzle.com. Send a check or money order for $6.95 each (US funds only) plus $2.50 shipping and handling for the first book and $1 for each additional book to: Puzzle Collections, PO Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

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WHATZIT Solution:
Clerical error

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Xi Juan Song Norita Petitioner,	)	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0330
vs.	)	ORDER
Edward M. Norita Respondent.	)	

UPON CONSIDERATION OF THE MOTION by the Petitioner for an Order of this Court requiring the Respondent to answer or otherwise plead herein and permitting services to be made by publication under 7 CMC § 1104.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that the Respondent shall be served by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Petitioner shall publish the Summons once each week for four successive weeks and the last publication shall be not less than 21 days prior to the return date stated herein.

Entered this 5th day of June, 2012.

/s/ Kenneth L. Govendo
JUDGE

Looking for a way to tell everyone about your business?
You're looking at it!
Saipan Tribune
235-6397

Kanoa Resort Saipan

P.O Box 500369 Saipan MP 96950 • Tel # (670) 234-6601 Fax # (670) 234-8007

(1) ELECTRICIAN

Qualifications: Minimum of 5 years work experience and training. High school graduate or equivalent. Able to service, repair, calibrate, regulate, fine-tune or test machines, devices and equipment that operate primarily on electrical or electronic principles. Must to work in a flexible way that allows for changes in assignments and priorities depending upon identified needs of the department.

Interested applicants may email resume to joe_ada@saipan-grandhotel.com. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort , is located next to Saipan World Resort Beach Road , Susupe , Saipan , and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Michael A. White, Esq. F0122
The Law Offices Of Michael A. White, LLC
Post Office Box 5222
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6547
Fax: (670) 234-9537

Attorneys for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANKPACIFIC, LTD., Plaintiff, -v-	]	CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0074
KARMINA I OKAMURA, ALFRED A. PANGELINAN, and the MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND CORPORATION, Defendants.	]	**SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT, KARMINA I. OKAMURA:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of our answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated July 12, 2012 by order of the Court:

/s/Clerk of Court

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

We are currently seeking positive, qualified candidates for the positions of:

GARDENER
GUEST RELATIONS ASSISTANT
POWERHOUSE OPERATOR
SALES ASSOCIATE

Applicants must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

All applications are available at PIC's Security desk at the south end of the hotel. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Application deadline is **5pm on Thursday, July 26, 2012**

PIC Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	**$15**	**$27**
• 5-Liner	**$24**	**$39**
• 3-Liner with picture	**$24**	**$42**
• 5-Liner with picture	**$36**	**$57**

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

PREIST

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Find today's solution in classified section

Wiggins 1st British cyclist to win Tour de France

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN
AP SPORTS WRITER

AP
Bradley Wiggins, winner of the 2012 Tour de France cycling race rides up the Champs Elysees with his son during a parade after the last stage of the race in Paris, France, Sunday July 22, 2012.

PARIS (AP) — Twenty-three years ago, Bradley Wiggins marveled as Greg LeMond blazed a trail as America's first Tour de France winner. Now, he has blazed his own.

The 32-year-old from gritty northwest London became Britain's first winner of cycling's greatest race on Sunday, ending a 75-year drought for his country with an imperial conquest of the roads in cross-Channel neighbor France.

Wiggins had locked up the yellow jersey a day earlier by winning the final time-trial and Sunday's ride onto the Champs-Elysees was largely ceremonial for him.

But putting the coveted shirt to work one last time, he added a touch of class by providing a leadout to Sky teammate and fellow Briton Mark Cavendish to get his third Tour stage victory—the 23rd of his career—in a sprint. The Isle of Man native is a main contender to win road race gold at the Olympics in London, which has been a hovering presence over the peloton in this Tour.

Wiggins congratulated his teammates after crossing the line, hugged his wife, and clutched the hands of their two children. A soprano sang "God Save The Queen", and Wiggins thanked the crowd with a touch of British humor.

"Cheers, have a safe journey home, don't get too drunk," he quipped after hoisting the winner's bouquet, with the Arc de Triomphe behind him.

"It's been a magical couple of weeks for the team and for British cycling," Wiggins said. "Some dreams come true. My mother over there, she's now—her son has won the Tour de France."

Then, with a Union Jack around his neck like a scarf, Wiggins sipped Champagne for the processional lap on the famed Paris avenue, trailed by his son with "Allez Wiggo"—Go Wiggo—written on his cheeks.

This 99th Tour will be remembered for successes of other Britons too, like all-rounder Christopher Froome, who was second overall, Cavendish and Scottish veteran David Millar—who won seven stages between them, a Tour record for Britain.

Italy's Vincenzo Nibali rounded out the podium in third. France's Thomas Voeckler won the polka-dot jersey for best climber, Peter Sagan of Slovakia takes home the green jersey for best sprinter and Tejay van Garderen, a 23-year-old American, won the white jersey given to the best young rider.

It was a race of disappointment for Cadel Evans of Australia, who struggled in the climbs and failed to repeat his 2011 Tour victory. And a swan song for George Hincapie of the United States, who set the record of 17th Tour participations.

Wiggins had come into the race as the favorite, but he knew all too well how anything can happen over more than 2,100 miles of racing over three weeks. Crashes, sickness and doping scandals all thinned the pack. Questions were rife about the unity of his powerful Sky team—he put those to rest.

His victory was all the more remarkable because it culminated the transformation of Wiggins from three-time Olympic champion on the track to road-race star. His early years had given him the sustained power for the Tour time-trial—which he dominated twice this year—but his ability to scale Alps and Pyrenees ascents was in question. There too, Wiggins came through.

His victory for Britain was no tiny feat. It's not just the first British victory, but the first podium finish—and this year, Britain has two—since Britons began riding in the race in 1937. A total of 59 have competed since then.

Wiggins, who was fourth in 2009 and 24th in 2010, came in with a thirst for victory after crashing out last year. He showed superb form, with three stage-race victories this season. And this layout was about as favorable as it could come for him: Heavy on time-trials, lighter—relatively—on climbs.

Sky was methodical in its march to victory—evoking at times some uncomfortable comparisons with the dominant teams of Lance Armstrong. The seven-time Tour champion was at times a presence in the background at this race, with news of his battle against U.S. doping charges that threaten his legacy. Four of his former teammates who were riding the Tour came under a media spotlight amid a news report they had struck deal with USADA.

This Tour, as in many in recent years, was dogged by doping.

On the first rest day, Remy Di Gregorio of Cofidis was arrested and ousted from the race in a French anti-doping probe, accused of possessing doping products or equipment prohibited without medical justification.

The bigger bombshell came on the second rest day: Frank Schleck, the RadioShack Nissan Trek leader from Luxembourg who placed third last year, was ousted after he tested positive for the banned diuretic Xipamide on July 14. He has denied any wrongdoing.

The impact of doping was felt even before the first starter's gun in Liege, Belgium: Two-time Tour champion Alberto Contador was sitting out to complete a two-year doping ban linked to the 2010 Tour. The Spaniard is by far the sport's biggest star.

Wiggins too has borne the impact of doping's ravages on the sport. In 2007, one of the most scandal-ridden Tours in recent memory, his Cofidis team pulled out after rider Cristian Moreni tested positive for testosterone—incensing Wiggins so much that he swore he'd never wear its jersey again.

If this year's Tour was boring compared to others in recent years—when use of performance enhancers juiced up many riders—Wiggins said it may be because the sport is changing amid the fight against doping, and that fans perhaps should not expect as many incredible performances as in years past. He has been a vocal critic of doping in cycling.

Some fretted the lack of panache—flair—on the mountain climbs.

"Unfortunately, we didn't have either Andy Schleck or Alberto Contador here this year, but next year, they'll both be back—hopefully—and that will give it the panache," UCI chief Pat McQuaid told The Associated Press. Andy Schleck, Frank's brother and runner-up last year, was out with an injury.

With "conservative" riders like Wiggins, "you weren't going to see that panache. But he's a deserving winner, as every winner of the Tour de France deserves to win the Tour de France," he said.

While he made his name as a track star—Britain's forte in cycling—Wiggins is a student of the road race. As a kid, he lined his bedroom walls with posters of cycling greats like five-time Tour winner Miguel Indurain.

"My first Tour de France memory was obviously watching LeMond win in `89, and then after that I was hooked on cycling," said Wiggins. "All through my early teens I was watching Indurain win the Tour. That was my reason to not go to school in the morning, to watch the cycling."

"I never imagined then that I, in the center of London in a—well, I can say, dangerous—neighborhood with a lot of crime, that one day I could one day maybe win the Tour," he told France-2 TV before the Tour. "It's a little bit of a dream."

Wiggins says he straddled the Armstrong era: By the time the Texan started his run of Tour victories, "I was already into cycling ... so I sort of stopped watching in those years."

But they were similar: They love their music; (Wiggins is a fan of The Jam and his trademark sideburns have drawn comparisons to those of Oasis frontman Liam Gallagher.) Both were raised by their mothers—with fathers absent. Armstrong once reportedly advised Wiggins about how to handle the media—counsel that he's appeared to keep to himself.

Wiggins had a hot-and-cold relationship with the media during this Tour, notably when asked about comparisons to Sky and the Armstrong teams, he laced into anonymous critics on Twitter with an expletive-laden tirade.

After his final press conference, Wiggins acknowledged that he had "never trained to do well in the media," and thanked reporters for "putting up with me" and "my mood swings at times."

On Sunday, though, he was back at it—swatting at photographers hoping to get a quick shot of the victor on the Champs-Elysees.

The bigger Armstrong influence appears to have been on his coach.

Journalist Richard Moore, in his book "Sky's The Limit" on the team, writes of the apparent fascination that team manager Dave Brailsford—a guru of British cycling—had for the Armstrong approach to the Tour.

Sky studied the race, and noted Armstrong formulas like keeping the leader in the front to avoid crashes, or tweaking at the margins on training or effort management to get an edge that would add up against rivals.

Wiggins' father, Gary, was an Australian cyclist who was mostly absent from Bradley's life. He was a "boozer and brawler" who died in 2008—and had been beaten and dumped in a street in New South Wales, Moore wrote.

Wiggins, asked Tuesday about what his father might have made of his Tour success, replied: "It's difficult to say. That depends on whether he was sober or ... "

Was his father in the back of his mind, just a little?

"Not really. I've put that one to bed," Wiggins said.

Wiggins, too, had his run-ins with drink. After winning gold at the 2004 Olympics, he signed with a French team, moved to western Nantes, and lived day-to-day, at times with debt, over a Chinese restaurant.

"I was drunk all the time between races because I was alone in France, 21, 22 years old," Wiggins recalled, "The only thing to do at night was to buy a six-pack of beer bottles."

His life started to change when he became a father.

"I have to try something to make a little money," he recalled. "I had two young children at the time, and I said, `I can't live like this, I have one euro in my pocket' ... and it started there."

He lost weight. At the Beijing Games, he weighed 181 pounds; at the Tour, he was down to 157. He drinks almost nothing now, he says.

He could also contend for gold in the Olympic time trial. So as he returned to the Sky bus, he jumped up on a team car, bowed and took a swig from a bottle ... of yellow rehydration drink—not Champagne.

But he could be forgiven for sipping a bit on the Champs-Elysees.

NCAA to punish Penn State; Paterno statue removed

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP)—The NCAA announced Sunday that it will issue sanctions against Penn State in the wake of a scathing report that found that top university officials buried child sex abuse allegations against a now-convicted retired assistant and led to the tearing down of the famed statue of once-sainted coach Joe Paterno.

Shortly after Paterno's statue was removed Sunday, six months to the day after he died, the NCAA came forward to say that it will levy "corrective and punitive measures" against the school. The sanctions will be spelled out Monday, the NCAA said without disclosing further details.

NCAA President Mark Emmert hasn't ruled out the possibility of shutting down the Penn State football program in the wake of the scandal, saying he had "never seen anything as egregious."

The Paterno family issued a statement saying the statue's removal "does not serve the victims of Jerry Sandusky's horrible crimes or help heal the Penn State community."

"We believe the only way to help the victims is to uncover the full truth," said the family, which vowed its own investigation following the release of an investigative report by former FBI Director Louis Freeh that found that Paterno and three other top Penn State administrators concealed sex abuse claims against Sandusky.

The family called the report "the equivalent of an indictment—a charging document written by a prosecutor—and an incomplete and unofficial one at that."

The bronze statue, weighing more than 900 pounds, was built in 2001 in honor of Paterno's record-setting 324th Division I coaching victory and his "contributions to the university." Students chanted, "We are Penn State" as the statue came down.

AP

A worker walks in front of statue of former Penn State football coach Joe Paterno before its removal Sunday July 22, 2012 in State College, Pa.

Penn State President Rod Erickson said he decided to have the statue removed and put into storage because it "has become a source of division and an obstacle to healing."

"I believe that, were it to remain, the statue will be a recurring wound to the multitude of individuals across the nation and beyond who have been the victims of child abuse," Erickson said in a statement.

In Washington, a White House press secretary said President Barack Obama believed "it was the right decision." By many of those watching the statue's removal stared in disbelief and at least one woman wept, while others expressed anger at the decision.

"I think it was an act of cowardice on the part of the university," said Mary Trometter, of Williamsport, who wore a shirt bearing Paterno's image. She said she felt betrayed by university officials, saying they promised openness but said nothing about the decision until just before the removal work began.

Dozens later gathered to watch and listen to the sound of sawing, scraping and shoveling as workers removed Paterno's name and various plaques from the walls behind where the statue had stood. Shortly before midday, all that remained was the bare concrete and stone.

Few watching said they understood the decision and feared what kind of punishment the NCAA would pile on.

Cloresa Turner, who drove up from Martinsville, Va., to see the statue, clasped her hand over her mouth when she saw the statue was gone.

"He's done so much for this university. It's sad," she said. "To wipe it all away is like he meant nothing."

In NCAA terms, the Penn State case is stunning partly because of the swift action by the governing body for college sports. NCAA investigations on issues it normally handles, such as improper benefits, can drag on for months. But in the wake of the release of the Freeh report July 12, the NCAA has shown rare speed in moving toward the punishment phase for Penn State.

Recent major scandals such as the Reggie Bush case at the University of Southern California and players at Ohio State trading memorabilia for cash and tattoos have resulted in bowl bans and the loss of scholarships.

Current NCAA rules limit the so-called death penalty—shutting the program down completely—to colleges already on probation that commit another major violation. But NCAA leaders have indicated in recent months they are willing to use harsher penalties for the worst offenses. That includes postseason and TV bans, which haven't been used extensively since the 1980s.

"This is completely different than an impermissible benefits scandal like (what) happened at SMU, or anything else we've dealt with. This is as systemic a cultural problem as it is a football problem. There have been people that said this wasn't a football scandal," NCAA President Mark Emmert told PBS. "It was that but much more. And we'll have to figure out exactly what the right penalties are. I don't know that past precedent makes particularly good sense in this case because it's really an unprecedented problem."

Another question hanging is whether Penn State—and, by extension, Paterno, major college football's winningest coach—will have to vacate any victories. Paterno won 409 games for the school in his 46 seasons as head coach. USC lost a national title when it went on probation and Ohio State vacated the 2010 season, including its victory in the Sugar Bowl over Arkansas.

Kayla Weaver, a Penn State senior and member of the dance team called the Lionettes, said an NCAA death penalty would not only force the football players to transfer, but it would also force program changes for cheerleaders, dancers and band members and would hurt season ticket holders.

"It could ruin everything that we've built here," said Weaver, 21, from Franklin Lakes, N.J.

On Twitter, Akeel Lynch, a running back recruit who played high school football in western New York, wrote, "I still bleed blue and white," while quarterback Matt McGloin wrote, "The hotter the fire, the stronger the steel."

Tight end Garry Gilliam tweeted, "No matter what happens, I'm staying at Penn State."

A's rally past Yankees 5-4 in 12 for 4-game sweep

OAKLAND, California (AP)—Seth Smith hit a game leveling homer in the ninth inning and Coco Crisp singled home the winning run in the 12th as the surging Oakland Athletics rallied from four runs down to stun the New York Yankees 5-4 on Sunday and complete a four-game sweep.

Smith homered to center with one out in the ninth off closer Rafael Soriano to help the A's sweep the Yankees in a four-game series at the Oakland Coliseum for the first time. The Athletics improved to 14-2 in July, the best record in the majors.

Tigers 6, White Sox 4

In Detroit, Miguel Cabrera homered twice, reaching 300 for his career and helping Detroit finish a three-game sweep of Chicago.

Detroit wrapped up a 6-1 homestand against the White Sox and Los Angeles Angels and now leads the AL Central by 1 1/2 games over Chicago. The White Sox have lost five straight.

Orioles 4, Indians 3

In Cleveland, Zach Britton pitched six shutout innings and J.J. Hardy drove in three runs as Baltimore beat Cleveland for its fifth straight win.

Britton (1-0) gave up four hits in his second start since being recalled from the minors. He struck out five and got 11 other outs on grounders.

Blue Jays 15, Red Sox 7

In Boston, Brett Lawrie hit the game's first pitch for one of Toronto's four homers as the Blue Jays tagged Jon Lester for a career-worst 11 runs to complete a three-game sweep of Boston.

J.P. Arencibia, Rajai Davis and Travis Snider also homered for the Blue Jays.

Mariners 2, Rays 1

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Blake Beavan scattered four hits over eight innings as Seattle edged Tampa Bay to finish a 5-2 road trip.

Jesus Montero and Brendan Ryan each had an RBI double for the Mariners, who took two of three from the Rays.

Twins 7, Royals 5

In Kansas City, Missouri, Ryan Doumit homered from both sides of the plate and drove in four runs to lead Minnesota over Kansas City.

Doumit became the third Twins player to go deep from each side in a game. The others were Chili Davis (1992) and Roy Smalley (1986).

Angels 7, Rangers 4

In Anaheim, California, Albert Pujols and Bobby Wilson homered, and Mike Trout scored a run in his 14th consecutive game to set an American League rookie record, leading Los Angeles over Texas to win the three-game series.

Dan Haren pitched effectively in his first start off the disabled list for the Angels.

Nationals 9, Braves 2

In Washington, Ryan Zimmerman homered twice and drove in three runs, and Danny Espinosa and Roger Bernadina each had three hits and two RBIs as the Washington Nationals beat the Atlanta Braves to split a four-game series.

After Washington blew a 9-0 lead Friday night in an 11-10 loss, the teams split a Saturday doubleheader. The Nationals lead the division by 3 1/2 games—as they did when the series began.

Cardinals 7, Cubs 0

In St. Louis, Lance Lynn won his 12th game with six mostly spotless innings, and Matt Holliday and Carlos Beltran homered on consecutive pitches to put the finishing touches a St. Louis victory that completed a three-game sweep of Chicago.

Jon Jay and Tony Cruz hit consecutive two-run doubles off Travis Wood (4-5) in the first for St. Louis, which outscored the Cubs 23-1 and outhit them 38-16 for their sweep over Chicago since June 3-5, 2011 in St. Louis.

Pirates 3, Marlins 0

In Pittsburgh, Jeff Karstens pitched seven crisp innings, Pedro Alvarez homered as Pittsburgh beat Miami for its fifth consecutive win.

Pittsburgh completed its fourth sweep of the season—all at home—while matching its longest winning streak since Sept. 17-22, 2010. The Pirates (54-40) remained a half-game behind National League Central-leading Cincinnati.

Dodgers 8, Mets 3, 12 innings

In New York, pinch-hitter Matt Treanor had a two-run single in a five-run 12th as Los Angeles beat New York to finish a three-game sweep.

The Dodgers blew a 3-1 lead after the sixth, but still won their fourth straight after losing seven of eight and dropping out of first place in the NL West.

Reds 2, Brewers 1

In Cincinnati, Wilson Valdez drove in the tying run and scored the go-ahead run to back Johnny Cueto's seven solid innings as Cincinnati wrapped up one of the best homestands in franchise history with a win over Milwaukee.

Cueto (12-5) matched his single-season career high in wins to lead the Reds to their eighth victory on the 10-game homestand. It's only the fifth time in franchise history that Cincinnati posted at least eight wins on a home stand of 10 or fewer games. The last time was in 1975, when the Reds went 8-1 on a homestand.

Phillies 4, Giants 3, 12 innings

In Philadelphia, Jimmy Rollins hit an RBI single to lift Philadelphia past San Francisco in 12 innings.

John Mayberry Jr. hit two solo homers for the last-place Phillies, and Nate Schierholtz hit a pair of solo shots for the NL West-leading Giants.

Diamondbacks 8, Astros 2

In Phoenix, Jason Kubel homered for the sixth time in five games and Chris Young added a three-run shot as Arizona beat Houston to complete a high-scoring, three-game sweep of the staggering Astros.

Kubel, coming off a three-homer game Saturday night, led off the second inning with his 21st of the season. Young's homer highlighted a season-high seven-run sixth for the Diamondbacks, who outscored Houston 33-13 in the series.

Padres 3, Rockies 2

In San Diego, Will Venable drove in the go-ahead run in the seventh inning and Everth Cabrera had two hits and scored twice as San Diego beat Colorado.

Dale Thayer (2-2) pitched 1 1/3 innings of scoreless relief to earn the victory for the Padres, who have won seven of nine and three straight series for the first time this season. Huston Street retired the side in order in the ninth to convert his 16th save in as many chances.

ELS

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two tournaments in recent months with shaky putting, the Big Easy felt all along that something special was going to happen at this British Open.

And it did - all because of a collapse by Scott that no one saw coming.

"I know I let a really great chance slip through my fingers today," Scott said.

On a wind-swept afternoon at Royal Lytham & St. Annes that blew away the hopes of Tiger Woods and a handful of others, Scott looked steady as ever by going eight straight holes without making bogey. And that's when it came undone.

"I had it in my hands with four to go," Scott said.

A bogey from the bunker on the 15th cut the lead to three. That was followed by a three-putt bogey on the 16th, where his 3-foot par putt spun in and out of the cup and made the gallery gasp. From the middle of the 17th fairway, he hit a 6-iron that turned left, ran down the slope and took one last bounce in shin-high grass.

"I thought, `Hold on. We've got a problem here,' " said Graeme McDowell, playing with Scott in the final group.

By then, Els had posted a 2-under 68 with a 15-foot birdie putt on the final hole, a cheer that Scott recognized while playing the 17th. Scott failed to get up-and-down for par from the rough and suddenly was tied.

Els headed to the practice green, where it rarely works out for him. In perhaps the most crushing defeat in a career filled with them, Els was on the putting green at Augusta National in 2004 when Phil Mickelson made an 18-foot birdie putt to win the Masters.

"I just thought, `I'll probably be disappointed again,' " Els said. "You're not really hoping the guy is going to make a mistake, but you're hoping you don't have to go a playoff, you can win outright. This one was different, because I feel for Adam."

Els, who started the final round six shots behind, wound up with his second British Open—the other one was 10 years ago at Muirfield - and fourth major championship at a stage in his career when it looked as if his best golf was behind him.

"Amazing," Els said. "I'm still numb. It still hasn't set in. It will probably take quite a few days because I haven't been in this position for 10 years, obviously. So it's just crazy, crazy, crazy getting here."

The celebration was muted, unlike his other three majors.

"First of all, I feel for Adam Scott. He's a great friend of mine," Els said. "Obviously, we both wanted to win very badly. But you know, that's the nature of the beast. That's why we're out here. You win. You lose. It was my time for some reason."

The wind finally arrived off the Irish Sea and ushered in pure chaos—a mental blunder by Woods that led to triple bogey on the sixth hole, a lost ball by Brandt Snedeker that took him out of contention and a topped shot that made McDowell, a former U.S. Open champion, look like an amateur.

"I guess my disappointment kind of seems relatively stupid in relation to the guy ... I've just seen a guy lose The Open Championship," said McDowell, who played in the final group of a major for the second straight time.

Nothing was more stunning than what happened to Scott, who closed with a 75.

"I managed to hit a poor shot on each of the closing four holes," Scott said. "Look, I played so beautifully for most of the week. I shouldn't let this bring me down."

Even so, it added another chapter to Australian heartbreak, most of that belonging to his idol, Greg Norman.

Scott was the fourth Australian since the 2007 Masters to lead going into the final round of a major, yet the proud land Down Under remains without a major since Geoff Ogilvy won the U.S. Open at Winged Foot in 2006.

"Greg was my hero when I was a kid, and I thought he was a great role model, how he handled himself in victory and defeat," Scott said. "He set a good example for us. It's tough. I can't justify anything that I've done out there. I didn't finish the tournament well today.

"But next time ... I'm sure there will be a next time and I can do a better job of it."

Already in the World Golf Hall of Fame, the 42-year-old Els joined even more elite company. He became only the sixth player to win the U.S. Open and British Open twice. The others are Jack Nicklaus, Woods, Walter Hagen, Bobby Jones and Lee Trevino.

Woods came undone on the sixth hole when he tried to blast out of a bunker from a plugged lie, stayed in the bunker, and three-putted for triple bogey. Still with an outside chance after a birdie on the 12th, he stuck with his conservative plan of hitting iron off the tee and made three straight bogeys. He closed with a 73 to tie for third with Brandt Snedeker, who also had his share of problems for a 74.

Woods had his best finish in a major since he lost to Y.E. Yang in the 2009 PGA Championship, though he remains winless in the last 17.

"It's part of golf," said Woods, who moves to No. 2 in the world. "We all go through these phases. Some people, it lasts entire careers. Others are a little bit shorter. Even the greatest players to ever play have all gone through little stretches like this."

Els finished at 7-under 273. He failed to qualify for the Masters this year for the first time in nearly two decades, but that won't be a problem now. His win gives him a five-year exemption into the majors.

It was the most shocking collapse at the British Open since Jean Van de Velde took a triple bogey on the final hole at Carnoustie and lost in a playoff. But this was different. It wasn't a last-minute blowup, more of a slow bleed, similar to Jason Dufner losing a five-shot lead to Keegan Bradley in the PGA Championship last year, or Ed Sneed making bogey on the last three holes at the 1979 Masters.

There was just enough wind to make the 206 bunkers at Royal Lytham look a little bit bigger. And as the gusts increased, a calm week turned chaotic.

It started with Woods on the sixth hole, his first triple bogey at a major championship since he lost his ball on the opening hole at Royal St. George's in 2003.

"One yard," he said to his caddie, a measure of the miss. It plugged near the steep wall of a pot bunker.

Instead of chipping to the middle of the bunker, Woods tried to get out with a ferocious swing. The ball smacked into the wall, nearly hit him and wound up near the left wall. He sat on the grass, his left knee (which has gone through four surgeries) flexed underneath him, his right leg extended as he dipped his upper body toward the sand to make a swing. This one also hit the wall, and caromed around and out to the right. From there, he three-putted for a 7.

"The game plan was to fire it into the bank, have it ricochet to the right and then have an angle to come back at it," Woods said. "Unfortunately, it ricocheted to the left and almost hit me."

Just like that, he was seven shots behind. It was the second time this year that one of golf's biggest stars made triple bogey in the final round of a major while in contention. Phil Mickelson made his on the fourth hole at the Masters and never recovered.

Els made a bogey on the ninth to fall six shots behind. All that did was fire him up, and he came home in 32. His 68 is best measured in these terms - of the last 12 players who teed off in the final round, no one else had better than a 72.

Yet there was one more collapse, in the final hour, and it was the one everyone will remember from this British Open. It's one Scott will somehow need to forget. As winner and runner-up met in a portable trailer before going out to the trophy presentation, Els told him: "Don't beat yourself up."

TRENCH

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kept on running," said Mancao, who had his first race here since competing in the Oceania championship in Cairns, Australia late last month.

Akiko Miller came in after Mancao, posting 48:02 to win first place in the women's division. Miller defeated Reylynn Sapong and first time roadrunner Tiffany Lin, who logged 57:57 and 1:09:04, respectively.

Other 10K finishers were Donivan Mendiola (56:48), Clyde Eblane (57:49), Arielle Buyum (58:04), Suzy Kindel (58:32), Justin Ralph Cayading (1:04:22), Nick Nishikawa (1:29:46), Jun Lee (1:29:46), Mike Busby (1:35:42), Jack Hardy (1:42:56), Josephine Mesta (2:21:32), Rosalyn Quintanilla (2:21:34), and Celina Farrel (2:21:35). Kathy Ruszala, who is five months pregnant, also ran the course with her baby boy, Keoni (on a stroller), and the mother-and-son tandem timed in at 1:42:56, beating three other runners.

Meanwhile, Hyatt Regency Saipan would like to thank the following for supporting last weekend's event: Pacific Trading, Co., MARPAC, Coca-Cola, Docomo Pacific, IP&E, IT&E, Take Care, Chong's Corporation, I Love Saipan, KZMI, Select Care, Ideal Signs, Quality Water, Saipan Computer Services, PIC, Garapan Rollers, UFO, CHC Nursing Department, and Northern Marianas Athletics.

REYES

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Although Cabrera (3-0) had his perfect 0.00 earned run average from the rubber blemished last week, he still leads a pack of nine other hurlers with just one earned run credited through 22 and 2/3 innings for a miniscule 0.040 ERA. A dozen other runs scored on his watch were all unearned.

Behind Reyes in the batting race comes IP&E-Shell Fielders' Anthony Tenorio (0.486), Aces' Jesus Iguel (0.472), Saipan Stevedore Co. Northern Yankees' Ben Jones Jr. (0.432) and Chris Camacho (0.424), Aces' J.D. Dikito (0.387) and Juan Maratita (0.371), Angels' Nunu Kapileo (0.343) and Marvin Kaipat (0.342), Aces' Nokki Saralu (0.333), and Rep. Ray Yumul D-9ers' Isaiah Lizama (0.313).

Tan Holdings Brewers' Byron Kaipat still leads in runs batted in (RBI) with 13, with Camacho (12), Saralu (11), Yankees' Jerome Delos Santos (9), the Aces duo of Juan Iguel (9) and Ben Taisacan (9), and Brewers' Manny Sablan (9) all within range.

Delos Santos, Saralu, and Yankees' Tom Agulto all have one home run under their belts, while Jones Jr. and Tenorio are knotted up with three triples apiece. Yankees' Dave Camacho has two triples thus far.

Kapileo and Brewers' Roy Celis share the lead in doubles with four each with D-9ers' Lawrence Dikito, Aces' Juan Iguel, Reyes, and Tenorio all trailing by one.

Jesus Iguel and Jones Jr. have both crossed the plate a league-leading 18 times, but have some company with Reyes, Saralu, and Tenorio sitting close behind at 16. Juan Iguel (15), Delos Santos (14), Celis (12), Maratita, (12) and Sablan (12) are also in striking distance of the leaders in runs scored.

In pitching, Cabrera's ERA was recently dialed up to 0.40, but he is still the man to beat. Brewers' Thomas Camacho (0.55 ERA), Yankees' Joshua Jones (0.62 ERA), and Brewers' Vince Cepeda (0.70 ERA) also hold ERAs under 1.00, while other strong notables include Angels' Franco Flores (2.25 ERA), Aces' Maratita (2.32 ERA) and Taisacan (2.46 ERA), Angels' Peter Tenorio (2.53 ERA), Aces' Juan Iguel (2.70 ERA), and Angels' Tom Joab (3.00 ERA).

In strikeouts, Joshua Jones' 62 acquired in just three complete games at the start of the season is still by far the mark to beat. IP&E-Shell's Elton Santos (45), Cepeda (41), IP&E-Shell's Brandon Santos (23), Flores (21), and Juan Iguel (18) are all on the chase.

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100-meter swim, 500m bike, and 700m run leg of the course, which was around the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool area. The swim leg started at the Marpi pool, while the run and bike legs took place around the pool area. Participants in the 8 to 10 age group did the 200m swim, 700m bike, and 800m run.

"We didn't have any place. We gave all the kids first place and raffled off prizes from IT&E and Ride NMI," Carey said.

"It was very nice to see kids who can use kick board. We all watched the bike and run legs held around the pool. The race was just fun and I think all kids and parents had a good time. Some kids walked, some pushed their bike, but all of them made it to the finish line and that's the most important thing," Carey added.

The Saipan pro will organize one more kids triathlon next month when she returns from XTERRA Japan.

"I am thinking of another kids triathlon at the end of next month. The kids enjoy the race a lot and I want to give them something to do this summer vacation besides swimming at the Marpi pool," added Carey, who thanked IT&E, Mariana Resort, Ride NMI, and Saipan Swim Club for supporting the weekend race.

"I will start training for XTERRA Japan and after that race, the kids will have their turn here on Saipan," said Carey.

XTERRA Japan will be held in Marunuma on Aug. 25 with Carey hoping to defend the women's division title after failing to do so last year. The 2011 edition of XTERRA Japan was cancelled last year after an earthquake and subsquent tsunami hit Japan.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

BRITISH OPEN SCORES

LYTHAM ST. ANNES, England (AP)–Scores Saturday in the British Open at 7,086-yard, par-70 Royal Lytham & St. Annes:

FINAL

Ernie Els, $1,405,890	67-70-68-68–273
Adam Scott, $812,202	64-67-68-75–274
Tiger Woods, $464,725	67-67-70-73–277
Brandt Snedeker, $464,725	66-64-73-74–277
Luke Donald, $304,610	70-68-71-69–278
Graeme McDowell, $304,610	67-69-67-75–278
Nicolas Colsaerts, $222,599	65-77-72-65–279
Thomas Aiken, $222,599	68-68-71-72–279
Geoff Ogilvy, $124,343	72-68-73-67–280
Miguel Angel Jimenez, $124,343	71-69-73-67–280
Ian Poulter, $124,343	71-69-73-67–280
Alexander Noren, $124,343	71-71-69-69–280
Vijay Singh, $124,343	70-72-68-70–280
Dustin Johnson, $124,343	73-68-71-71–280
Matt Kuchar, $124,343	69-67-72-72–280
Mark Calcavecchia, $124,343	71-68-69-72–280
Thorbjorn Olesen, $124,343	69-66-71-74–280
Zach Johnson, $124,343	65-74-66-75–280
Hunter Mahan, $79,277	70-71-70-70–281
Steven Alker, $79,277	69-69-72-71–281
Louis Oosthuizen, $79,277	72-68-68-73–281
Bill Haas, $79,277	71-68-68-74–281
Carl Pettersson, $60,044	71-68-73-70–282
Simon Dyson, $60,044	72-67-73-70–282
Steve Stricker, $60,044	67-71-73-71–282
Peter Hanson, $60,044	67-72-72-71–282
Matthew Baldwin, $60,044	69-73-69-71–282
James Morrison, $60,044	68-70-72-72–282
Nick Watney, $60,044	71-70-69-72–282
Bubba Watson, $60,044	67-73-68-74–282
Rickie Fowler, $47,124	71-72-70-70–283
Anirban Lahiri, $47,124	68-72-70-73–283
Jason Dufner, $47,124	70-66-73-74–283
John Senden, $40,615	70-71-75-68–284
Jim Furyk, $40,615	72-70-71-71–284
Gary Woodland, $40,615	73-70-70-71–284
Paul Lawrie, $40,615	65-71-76-72–284
Keegan Bradley, $40,615	71-72-68-73–284
Richard Sterne, $32,023	69-73-73-70–285
K.J. Choi, $32,023	70-73-71-71–285
Troy Matteson, $32,023	70-72-71-72–285
Francesco Molinari, $32,023	69-72-71-73–285
Padraig Harrington, $32,023	70-72-70-73–285
Kyle Stanley, $32,023	70-69-70-76–285
Ross Fisher, $23,180	72-71-74-69–286
Bob Estes, $23,180	69-72-74-71–286
Pablo Larrazabal, $23,180	73-70-71-72–286
Lee Westwood, $23,180	73-70-71-73–286
Rafael Echenique, $23,180	73-69-71-73–286
Joost Luiten, $23,180	73-70-69-74–286
Justin Hicks, $23,180	68-74-69-75–286
Greg Chalmers, $23,180	71-68-71-76–286
Simon Khan, $23,180	70-69-71-76–286
Fredrik Jacobson, $20,073	69-73-73-72–287
Yoshinori Fujimoto, $20,073	71-70-73-73–287
Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano, $20,073	71-71-72-73–287
Greg Owen, $20,073	71-71-71-74–287
Harris English, $20,073	71-71-70-75–287
Thomas Bjorn, $20,073	70-69-72-76–287
Rory McIlroy, $19,292	67-75-73-73–288
Ted Potter Jr., $19,292	69-71–74-74–288
Jamie Donaldson, $19,292	68-72-72-76–288
Dale Whitnell, $19,292	71-69-72-76–288
Charles Howell III, $18,589	72-71-74-72–289
Lee Slattery, $18,589	69-72-75-73–289
Retief Goosen, $18,589	70-70-75-74–289
Sang-moon Bae, $18,589	72-71-71-75–289
Garth Mulroy, $18,589	71-69-72-77–289
Jeev Milkha Singh, $17,964	70-71-76-73–290
Aaron Baddeley, $17,964	71-71-74-74–290
Adilson Da Silva, $17,964	69-74-71-76–290
Martin Laird, $17,339	70-69-82-70–291
Chad Campbell, $17,339	73-70-74-74–291
Juvic Pagunsan, $17,339	71-72-73-75–291
Brendan Jones, $17,339	69-74-72-76–291
Toshinori Muto, $17,339	67-72-74-78–291
Tom Watson, $16,636	71-72-76-73–292
Warren Bennett, $16,636	71-70-75-76–292
Thongchai Jaidee, $16,636	69-71–74-78–292
Branden Grace, $16,636	73-69-71-79–292
John Daly, $16,168	72-71-77-74–294
Rafael Cabrera-Bello, $16,168	70-71-76-77–294
Andres Romero, $15,933	70-69-77-82–298

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EAFF Asian Cup 2013 Preliminary Competition Round 1

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

CNMI goalie Daniel Stafford catches the ball during their game against Macau in the EAFF Asian Cup 2013 Preliminary Competition Round 1 last week at the Leo Palace in Guam.

CNMI goalkeeper Jhaneeka Atalig catches a corner kick from Hong Kong.

Hong Kong's Kam Mui Fung breaks through the defense of the CNMI's Liezel Tiples (6) and Mikky and Vargas (7).

The CNMI's TreyDunn III cuts off Macau's Chan Kin Seng near the sideline.

The CNMI's Natalie Hill, right, battles Guam's Arisa Recella battles for possession.

The CNMI's Carrie Schuler and Guam's Simie Willter have a foot race for the ball.

The CNMI's Marrielle Gariguez closes in on defense against Guam's Tanya Blas-Cruz.

CNMI defenders line up while waiting for Guam's free kick.

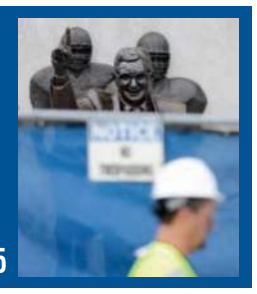
The CNMI's Lucas Knecht, left, kicks the ball.

The CNMI's Eric Cooke, left, keeps the ball away from a Guam player.

Wiggins 1st British cyclist to win Tour de France 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

NCAA to punish Penn State; Paterno statue removed 25



Els wins British Open after Scott collapses

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP GOLF WRITER

LYTHAM ST. ANNES, England (AP)—Ernie Els plucked the ball from the hole after one last birdie and heaved it into the grandstand. At the time, it looked like nothing more than a classy gesture by a former British Open champion—not the next one.

The name on the claret jug was supposed to be Adam Scott, who had a four-shot lead with four holes to play.

But in a shocking turnaround Sunday, Els returned to the 18th green less than an hour later to claim the oldest trophy in golf. Scott joined a list of players who threw away a major.

That was not lost on Els, whose heart sank when he looked over at the 32-year-old Australian.

"Sorry," Els told him. "You're a great player, a great friend of mine. I feel very fortunate. You're going to win many of these."

Scott might not get another chance like this.

After hitting a 3-wood into a pot bunker on the final hole, Scott had one last chance when he stood over a 7-foot par putt to force a playoff. It stayed left of the cup, and Scott dropped into a crouch. Standing off to the side, his chin quivered as the magnitude of the meltdown hit him. Instead, he mouthed one word: "Wow."

Wow, indeed.

Even though Els had gone more than two years without winning, and had thrown away

See ELS on Page 26

AP

Ernie Els of South Africa holds up the Claret Jug trophy after winning the British Open Golf Championship at Royal Lytham & St Annes golf club, Lytham St Annes, England Sunday, July 22, 2012.

Trench Tech trainee wins Hyatt's 10K run

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Trench Tech trainee Daniel Ramirez is seconds away from cutting the tape at the finish line of the 10K race in last Saturday's Hyatt Run For A Cause.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Visiting boxer Daniel Ramirez continued to impress the local running community as he won another race here, ruling the 10K event in last Saturday's Hyatt Run For A Cause.

Ramirez completed the race from Micro Beach up to Beach Road (across Hakubotan) and back in 40:59, way behind his best time (27 minutes plus), but it was enough to beat local favorite Michael Mancao and 18 others. It was Ramirez's second win in a local race, as he also topped the 19th Annual Tom Picarro "Silver Streak" Memorial Fun Run last month.

"I knew I would not be able to beat my PBT, as I rarely run here, but my legs still have the power to run 10K and have a decent time. I just paced myself during the race and fortunately I won again," said Ramirez, who is from Nevada and has been on Saipan since last month training with Trench Tech.

The 19-year-old Ramirez, who beat Mancao in the Silver Streak, led last Saturday's race right from the start and was already past Café at the Park and nearing the side entrance of Hyatt Regency Saipan when his closest pursuer—Sean Smith—made his turn at the Garapan Fire Station.

Smith went on to clock in at 41:23, about six minutes ahead of third placer Noni Eugenio, who submitted 47:21. Mancao dropped to third with his time of 47:55, failing to keep up with Ramirez due to an early injury. The 18-year-old Mancao said he was just past the Garapan Fire Station on the way to Beach Road when he felt something on his right knee. He ended up tying up a sponge on his aching knee and crossed the finish line limping in pain.

"I don't know what happened, I suddenly felt the pain. I don't want to quit, so I just

See TRENCH on Page 26

Reyes, Cabrera still atop batting, pitching categories

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

As of Thursday's Saipan Major League matchup, St. Michael's Medical Response Angels' John B. Reyes and Manny Cabrera remain atop their respective statistical categories for batting and pitching.

Reyes has so far belted 19 hits in 39 at bats for an impressive 0.513 batting average. He is the only batter in the league with at least 31 at bats swinging above 0.500.

See REYES on Page 26

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Current Saipan Major League batting leader John Reyes of the St. Michael's Medical Response Angels takes a cut in Thursday's matchup against the IP&E-Shell Fielders at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Wataru Kadokura pushes his bike to the bike-run transition area during last Saturday's kids triathlon held in Marpi.

14 complete kids triathlon

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Fourteen young athletes finished the kids triathlon race Saipan pro Mieko Carey organized last Saturday in Marpi.

The finishers list includes David Tsukagoshi, Jinnosuke Suzuki, Rintaro Miyawaki, Jinju Thompson, Soleil Lamar, Taiga Sato, Jasmine and Erin Frink, Michail and Michael Villagomez, Taka Borja, Wataru and Akira Kadokura, and Jen-nah Nelson.

Wataru Kadokura was the youngest finisher in the field at 5 years old that completed the

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